

There is no doubt that the telegram received from Eisenhower about the intentions of the Western Allied forces significantly influenced Stalin's decision to launch an offensive against Berlin. Describing a fait accompli, one cannot but agree with Churchill's opinion about the political mistake made by General Eisenhower. Contrary to the deadline given by Stalin to Eisenhower, the offensive of the Soviet troops on the capital of Germany was organized for a month

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earlier. The implementation of the Berlin operation, grandiose in its scale, began, as planned by the Headquarters, on April 16, 1945. By April 19, the troops of the 1st Belorussian and 1st Ukrainian fronts had completed the breakthrough of the defensive line of the German troops along the Oder-Neisse and began to encircle the main forces of the Berlin group of the Wehrmacht. On April 25, 1945, Soviet troops entered the area northwest of Potsdam and closed the encirclement of the entire grouping of Nazi troops stationed in Berlin. On the same day, the troops of Marshal Konev and the troops of the 1st American Army advancing from Leipzig, as we know, met near the city of Torgau on the Elbe.

And one more point that cannot be bypassed. Was it necessary for the Soviet troops to storm the Berlin defense, surrounded by two fronts? The entry of troops into the city, where every street, every house had to be taken by a soldier there with a fight? Naturally, this is an independent topic, which Falin is silent about.

At the end of March, the Allies crossed the Rhine and forced the surrender of the German army in the Ruhr.

A direct road to Berlin opened up before the Allies. On April 11, 1945, General Simpson's 9th American Army armored division approached the Elbe near Magdeburg. The next day, the division captured a bridgehead on the other side of the river and made a crossing, and on the night of April 15, 1945, the 2nd armored division overcame the water barrier in full force. American Cev was separated from Berlin by 80 kilometers: two identical crossings.

On the same day, the commander of the 12th group of American troops, General Omar Bradley, ordered General Simpson to stop his troops.

- What the heck? Simpson wondered. - Where does this nonsense come from?

"From Ike (Eisenhower)," Bradley replied curtly.

The successes of the allies caused Stalin more and more anxiety. He did not expect after the capture of the Ruhr so rapidly

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their progress. And already | April, he made a firm decision - to hurry with the entrance to Berlin.

Stalin not only lied to the Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces, but also to his generals, Konev and Zhukov, and their officers and soldiers. Here is what I.S. Konev says in his memoirs':

"On April 1, 1945, the commander of the 1st Belorussian Front, Marshal of the Soviet Union G.K. Zhukov, and I were summoned to Moscow at the Headquarters of the Supreme High Command. Stalin received us, as usual, in the Kremlin ... Members of the State Defense Committee, Chief of the General Staff A.I. Antonov and Chief of the Main Operational Directorate S.M. Shtemenko.

As soon as we had time to say hello, Stalin asked a question:

Do you know how the situation is developing?

Zhukov and I replied that according to the information we had on our fronts, we knew the situation. Stalin turned to Shtemenko and told him:

- Read the telegram to them.

Here is what Shtemenko read aloud: "England — the British command is preparing an operation to capture Berlin, setting the task of capturing it before the Soviet Army. The main grouping is being created under the command of Field Marshal Montgomery..." The telegram ended with the fact that, according to all information, the plan for the capture of Berlin before the Soviet Army was considered by the Allied headquarters as quite realistic and preparations for its implementation were in full swing.

..Stalin turned to Zhukov and me:

- So who will take Berlin, we or the allies?

It so happened that I was the first to answer this question, and I answered:

- We will take Berlin and we will take it before the Union of NIKOV ...

Zhukov answered second. He reported that the troops were ready to take Berlin...

Konev I.S. Notes of the Front Commander. M.: Golos, 2000. S. 299-417.

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The Supreme Commander-in-Chief warned that Berlin must be taken as soon as possible, so the time for preparing the operation is very limited ... At the end of the "spectacle" organized by the Supreme Commander, according to the plans developed at the General Staff, the start of the attack on Berlin was scheduled for April 16, 1945. We calculated how many barrels will be installed per kilometer. Which armies would deliver the main blow, the composition of combat groupings, the need for additional reserves allocated by the Headquarters to the fronts, the logistics of operations ... All this was determined in a matter of days by Konev and Zhukov together with the General Staff. Only, as always, they did not calculate the estimated losses ... "

How did you readers like the performance staged by Stalin?

I was told by veterans who participated in the battles for Berlin that the troops were constantly in a hurry: "Hurry, hurry, forward! Otherwise, the allies will overtake us!"

What did Montgomery say?

Now let's get acquainted with the memoirs of Montgomery, one of the major commanders of the Second World War. Of course, in this case, we are interested in his point of view on the events connected with the capture of Berlin.

In September 1944, more precisely on September 15, 1944, in a letter to Eisenhower, Montgomery discusses the prospects for battles with the enemy: "Undoubtedly, Berlin is the main goal ... I am convinced that we should design all the conditions and resources for a swift strike to Berlin" (p. 280). In response, in general agreement with Montgomery, the Commander-in-Chief replies that "our plans need to be coordinated with the Russian strategy, so we must consider other options." In the event that Berlin is taken by the Allied forces ... Montgomery Eisenhower ends his answer with these words: "I have in

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mind to move to Berlin in the most direct and fastest way" (pp. 281-282).

In a reply to Eisenhower (September 18, 1945), Montgomery emphasizes the great significance of the capture of Berlin: "This will end the war ... The rest is secondary."

It can be seen from the correspondence that, in the end, the Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces did not support Montgomery's strategic plan, and time was lost: at that time the Soviet Army was still a hundred kilometers from Berlin.

In March 1945, Berlin in Eisenhower's strategy became an unlimited point.

"Having crossed the Rhine," writes Montgomery, "I began to discuss with Eisenhower (p. 335, March 1945) further operational plans. We met several times, I always considered Berlin a strategic object; it was a political center, and if the Russians had been overtaken there, it would have been much easier for us in the post-war years. Let me remind you that in his letter of September 15, 1944, Eisenhower agreed with me that the German capital is of great importance, and wrote (September 20, 1944, p. 283-284) that "when we reach the Rhine, Omar Bradley's next step will be to move to the left wing of him and his people "(p. 284).

Summing up his bitter memories, the English commander says: "First, the Americans were not able to understand that it was not enough to win the war strategically if they lost it politically, if, as a result of their strategy, we are still suffering" (p. 331).

First, Montgomery believes that the opportunity has been missed to ensure a political balance in Europe, which would have meant taking over certain political centers before the Russians. Especially Vienna, Prague and Berlin (pp. 335-336).

In concluding his conclusions, Montgomery writes: "If the political leaders of the West were faithfully exercising the highest direction of the course of the war, they would

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commanding the appropriate directive - to get ahead of the Russians in all three capitals "(p. 336).

And he explains how the Russians took Vienna, Prague and Berlin (p.336).

In the postwar years in the USA and England, the press claimed that their troops could capture Berlin, but did not set this as their goal. Thus, the American ambassador in Moscow, General W. B. Smith, who during the war was Eisenhower's chief of staff and who signed the surrender of the Germans in Reims, on August 23, 1948, during the Berlin crisis, said in a conversation with Stalin that "the allies could throw at Berlin 2-3 million soldiers and a hundred faces of Germany would have been taken by them. Smith noticed that either the allies were naive in those years, or they trusted each other more.

The head of the Soviet government replied that "both we and the Allied troops, after the German troops began to turn south, considered Berlin a strategically secondary point", and on this basis, on

Only the troops of Marshal Zhukov were sent to Berlin, the offensive of which, however, bogged down. In addition, an entire German army was launched around Zhukov's troops from the southwest. Stalin stated that "we then had to give a new order to Konev: remove two tank armies from the South-Western direction and transfer them to the Potsdam area so that this German army, which wanted to cut off Zhukov, should be placed in a "boiler", surround it and relieve Zhukov's advance to Berlin. Rokossovsky was told to turn his left flank to the southwest so that Konev and Zhukov would create a ring west of Berlin. This plan succeeded, Berlin was surrounded. Stalin noticed that everything was done in a hurry then, and he did not inform Eisenhower about this in time, but later informed him about it. "The German army," Stalin emphasized, "which wanted to surround Zhukov, was taken prisoner. About one third of it was killed. So Berlin from a simple

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point has become an important point. There was no cheating here." Well well!

Smith diplomatically agreed that there had been no deception and that the Allies were already well aware of this at the time, but he continued to insist that "the Allies could still move a large force on Berlin and occupy it."

Stalin remarked that he knew that Churchill insisted on the occupation of Berlin before the Russians arrived there. Eisenhower did not agree with this, fearing to get into an awkward position, since there were not enough troops for this. "If you look at things objectively, then Berlin was in the zone of our occupation. Morally, we had to take it, we had to do it. Our allies then had few troops against Hitler, only 70-80 divisions. It was difficult for them to occupy their zone and take Berlin. We had 280 divisions, and we could carry out such an operation as the capture of Berlin.

At a conference in London in 1944 with representatives of all allied states on the demarcation lines, it was agreed that, if it was expedient for military purposes, deviations from the approved borders were allowed, which actually happened.

Another quote from Falin. There is an explanation for Churchill's failure to implement the "Inevitable" plan: so, the position of the US military is the first reason. The second is the Berlin operation. Third, Churchill lost the election and was left without power. And finally, the fourth - the British military leaders themselves were against the implementation of this plan, because the Soviet Union, as they were convinced, was too strong. I repeat once again - this was only a plan in case the Red Army moved to the Atlantic!

The American ambassador commented on Stalin's statement as follows:
"We must take into account the fact that the composition of the American division was twice as large as that of the Soviets, the allies at that time had 6 thousand heavy bombers and 7 thousand other aircraft. Allies could then you

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fulfill any task in relation to the German army." Stalin hesitated and said:
"Hardly..."!

According to Zhukov, from numerous post-war conversations with the generals of the Allied armies, it became clear that "the question of the capture of Berlin by them was finally resolved only when the Red Army made a powerful blow to the German army on the Oder and Neisse and reached the Oder about a kilometer from Berlin.

But after the end of the war and demobilization from the army, as a reserve officer, I was still called up for military training for ten years. As a rule, they did not last long. During the classes, the officers who conducted them called imperialist America the main opponent of the USSR.

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In preparing this section, the article by G.P. Kynin "Secret telegram of I.V. Stalin to D. Eisenhower on the eve of the battle for Berlin" was used.

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"An army of principles will break through
where an army of soldiers will not pass."

T. Payne

Chapter Eleven

FIVE LAST DAYS OF THE WAR.
CZECHOSLOVAKIA.
MAY 1945

The Soviet Information Bureau reports:

May 7, 1945

Troops of the 1st Ukrainian Front as a result of a long

the siege today completely captured the city and the fortress of Breslavl (Breslau). In mid-February, the Soviet units made a swift enveloping maneuver and surrounded Breslavl. The Germans prepared for a long defense of the city. They barricaded the streets and dug them up with anti-tank ditches. Each stone house was turned into a pillbox with a large number of firing points. In a number of places, the Nazis, in order to impede the advance of the Soviet troops, blew up houses and blocked the streets ...

May 8, 1945

Troops of the 1st Ukrainian Front today captured the city of Dresden. Two days ago, our reconnaissance detachments attacked the Germans northwest of Dresden and drove them out of their fortified positions. Then the main Soviet forces entered the battle. Developing a rapid onset

1 Reports from the Sovinformburo are abbreviated. The listing of liberated cities in Czechoslovakia has been excluded. (Author's note)

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captured between the rivers Elbe and Mulde, our mobile formations and infantry cut the Dresden-Chem highway of the NIC ...

May 9, 1945

The troops of the 1st Ukrainian Front, as a result of a swift night maneuver of tank formations and infantry, broke the resistance of the enemy and on May 9 at 4 o'clock in the morning liberated the capital of Czechoslovakia, allied to us, Prague from the German invaders. The German troops under the command of Field Marshal Scherner, in violation of the act of surrender, refused to remain in place and lay down their arms. In view of this, the troops of the 1st Ukrainian Front attacked the troops of Field Marshal Scherner and, advancing forward, occupied many Czech cities on the territory of Czechoslovakia.

In view of the threat of encirclement from our troops, one group of Field Marshal Scherner began to surrender indiscriminately. On May 9 and 10, more than 35,000 German soldiers and officers were taken prisoner by the troops of the 1st Ukrainian Front.

Another group of German troops, General Field Marshal Scherner, also violated the terms of surrender and began to retreat to the west. The troops of the 4th Ukrainian Front, pursuing this group of troops, occupied many cities on the territory of Czechoslovakia. During May 9 and 10, the troops of the front took more than

20,000 randomly surrendered German soldiers and officers.

In front of the troops of the 2nd Ukrainian Front, German troops under the command of Colonel-General Weller also violated the act of surrender, refused to remain in place and lay down their arms. In view of this, the troops of the front attacked the troops of Colonel General Weller and, advancing forward, occupied the city of Budewice on the territory of Czechoslovakia. On May 9 and 10, 8,000 German soldiers and officers were taken prisoner by the troops of the front.

Troops of the 3rd Ukrainian Front on the territory of Avst

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Rii joined the British troops west of the city of Graz. On May 9 and 10, the troops of the front took more than 23,000 German soldiers and officers who randomly surrendered from the troops of Colonel-General Weller, including 4 generals.

May 11, 1945

During May 11, the troops of the 1st Ukrainian Front pursued the German troops of Field Marshal Scherner, who refused to capitulate, and moved forward

We will try to reveal in more detail what actually happened. Even on the way from East Prussia to Czechoslovakia, I became aware that the 31st Army, and hence the 331st Division, where I had served since October 1944, was transferred from the 3rd Belorussian to the 1st Ukrainian Front. So I got again under the high authorities of I.S. Konev. With him, the commander of the Kalinin Front in 1942, I began to fight near Rzhev. Then the general was losing battle after battle, and could not take Rzhev. Now, in May 1945, having learned how to fight on soldier's bones, the marshal is a recognized commander. In his memoirs, published after the war, he praised the 220th division, where I served from October 1942 to April 1944. I enjoyed reading this.

The railways from Königsberg to Saxony were beaten to the limit; The headquarters transferred troops from the Baltic, from Central Germany to the Balkans, so that the division moved slowly. German planes often appeared in the sky, but our fighters fought them constantly and bravely.

The division was unloaded on the night of May 7 in Saxony. It was time for an abundance of troops. Many tanks, artillery, concentrated on the roads and ready to move at any moment on Dresden. In the early morning of May 7, this steel armada went to Dresden. On May 8, defense not prepared by the enemy

collapsed under the onslaught of the troops of the 1st Ukrainian Front.

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News came to the headquarters one after another. It became known that on all fronts the German armies, after a useless "trade" on their part, capitulated unconditionally. On May 7, the Fortress City of Breslau surrendered. It was under siege from February 13 to May 6, 1945, an unusual fact in the history of the last war. During this time, 80 thousand inhabitants of the city died. 40 thousand German officers and soldiers surrendered. The figures on the losses of the armies on both sides are doubtful: 7,000 Germans and 9,000 Russians. And this is for 83 days of the most cruel, bloody battles that continued day and night ..

One got the impression - many officers thought so - that the division immediately fell into the epicenter of major events, no less difficult than in Prussia. They wondered where they would send us: to finish off the Germans in Dresden or straight to Prague? In the western part of Czechoslovakia and partly in Austria, large army groups "Center" are located, and this is more than 800 thousand soldiers and officers, a lot of tanks, artillery, aircraft. Under their complete control was the capital of Czechoslovakia - Prague. Here, Hitler's viceroy, Hans Frank, still reigned authoritatively.

The enemy grouping was commanded by Field Marshal Ferdinand Scherner. He received instructions from the new German government, headed by Admiral Doenitz, to continue military operations against the Red Army. This would allow as much as possible to surrender non-German troops to the Americans.

On the same day, May 8, 1945, the headquarters of Army Group Center was defeated. Scherner abandoned the troops. On the "junker" Yu-88, he flew to South Germany. In the Austrian city of St. Johannes, the plane made an emergency landing. After changing his clothes, Scherner tried to "get lost in the crowd." He was given out by the locals to the Americans. He did not surrender to the Americans, as some claim.

'Pyatikhin D. Siege of the fortress of Breslau. February-May 1945. Armorsite, November 2000.

2? According to the verdict of the tribunal at the Nuremberg Trials, Hans Frank was hanged. (Author's note)

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torics, as well as D.D. Lelashenko. The photograph has been saved. It shows Scherner in a light summer jacket and shorts. Obviously, the reader will agree with me - they don't surrender in shorts ... The Americans handed over Scherner, as if

ene criminal, Russian. He was sentenced in Moscow to 25 years, not 10, as some historians write. From Sherner spent 10 years in the Vladimir Prison. In 1955, together with other liberated German war criminals (more than 5 thousand people. - RB.G.), after the visit of Adenauer, the Federal Chancellor of West Germany to Moscow (1955), he was released and sent to the FRG. Here Scherner was also sentenced to 4.5 years for atrocities against soldiers.

On May 2, after the capture of Berlin, the Headquarters demanded that the 1st and 2nd Ukrainian Fronts prepare an offensive operation against Czechoslovakia in a short time. It was necessary to deliver two blows in the general direction to Prague: the 1st Ukrainian Front - from the north, the 2nd - from the southeast. The Prague operation provided for the encirclement of the enemy and the destruction of all his forces in Czechoslovakia. The participation of the 4th Ukrainian Front was also supposed in this operation. In cooperation with the right wing of the 2nd Ukrainian Front, he was to advance on Prague from the east.

Polish, Romanian and Czechoslovak units took part in the offensive. In total, more than two million people were to fight in the battles, 30,450 guns and mortars, 1960 tanks and self-propelled guns, over 3 thousand aircraft were used. The Red Army could afford such a huge concentration of combat forces in one direction only in 1945!

The enemy was unable to offer organized resistance along the entire front. He sought to get away from the blows of the Red Army units as soon as possible and surrender to the American troops. May 7 1st Ukrainian Front (left wing and

\Zalessky K.A. Who was who in the Third Reich. Biographical Encyclopedic Dictionary. M., 2003.

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center) went on the offensive: five combined arms armies, including the 31st. She covered the left flank of the front actions. On May 7, the 331st division received an order to move regiments into the foothills of the Sudetenland. At any cost, if the need arises, cover the road to Prague. One of the officers, Ostroslovov, quite seriously commented on the received order: "Well, hold on, guys! Now we are like Panfilovites near Moscow. Let's fight to the death!"

There was no need to "stand to death". But until Prague was liberated, every hour they waited for the enemy to attack. They dealt with Dresden quickly, in two days, and with minimal losses. It turned out more difficult with Prague, and until now something is unclear, hidden ... a lot of lies.

On May 4, 1945, General Eisenhower sent a message to Antonov, Chief of the General Staff of the Red Army. Considering that the 3rd American Army under the command of General Patton had almost reached Prague, stood 40 kilometers from the city, he proposed that the Americans be given the right to occupy Prague. But got rejected. Antonov referred to the disposition of the allied armies agreed in advance at Yalta, and also assured the commander of the allied forces that the Red Army had already moved towards Prague. This statement did not match reality.

ness.

Popular uprising in Prague

In early May 1945, an uprising against the invaders took place in Prague. The streets of the city were covered with barricades. Thousands of Praguers entered the battle? Prepared the

' The comparison with the Panfilovites is not entirely successful. The history of the Panfilovites is one of the first myths about Soviet heroism in the Great Patriotic War. (Author's note)

About the preparation and the beginning of the uprising in various sources, different dates are indicated. K. On May 7, more than 30,000 people participated in the uprising. (Author's note)

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The former "Union of Military Personnel" actively participated in it, and it was led by the quickly formed "Czech National Council" (CNC). It was headed by Professor of Prague University A. Prazhak. Official Soviet historians are doing their best to downplay the role of the ChNS in organizing the uprising. This is probably due primarily to the fact that the Committee entered into active contact with General Vlasov.

In the first hours of May 5, the rebels achieved success: they occupied the radio station, post office, telegraph, railway stations, bridges across the Vltava. The German garrison, which consisted mainly of spare parts, was confused, but soon began to resist. Scherner ordered: "The uprising in Prague must be crushed!" German troops moved towards Prague from different directions: from the north - the Reich Panzer Division, from the East - the Viking Panzer Division, from the south - the regiment of the Reich Division. Naturally, the insurgents alone could not withstand such large German combat units. Assuming a possible variant of such events, representatives of the ChNS and rebel commanders met with the commander of the 1st Vlasov division, Major General Sergei Kuzmich Bunya, on May 2 in the city of Kozoedy

chenko.

On May 5, at 12:33 pm, a signal was sounded on the radio about

the beginning of the uprising. On the eve of Bunyachenko, he decided to enter into an agreement with the delegation of the Czechs and oppose "fascism" and "Bolshevism", to liberate Prague from the Nazis. In the same spirit, the leaflets that were distributed were drawn up. The German command was informed of the decision made through a liaison officer: "The chief of staff of the division, Colonel Nikolaev, considered himself obliged to frankly explain to Major Schweninger that the command of the division, on the eve of the defeat of the Third Reich, in order to save personnel from imminent reprisal, in the event capture by Soviet troops, sees no other way out than to fulfill the request of the Czech

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national circles for help, in the hope of getting a haven in the newly created Czechoslovak state

stve.

APPEAL OF GENERAL AA VLASOV Brothers
Czechs and Russians!

The dying system of National Socialist Germany, in its death throes, is trying to crush the liberation movement of the Czech people for its independence.

An uprising has been raised in Prague against the stranglers of freedom and the freedom-loving peoples against National Socialist Germany.

We, Russian soldiers, fighting for the freedom of our homeland, Russia, against the further enslavement of it by Bolshevism, cannot stand aside from the struggle of the same freedom-loving people.

I gave the order to the Armed Forces of the Committee for the Liberation of the Peoples of Russia to come out in support of the rebellious Czech people. |

The moment has come when humanity must rid itself of National Socialist Germany. I call on all faithful sons of the Czech and Russian peoples to fight together. We will not be alone in this struggle, for we are waging a struggle for independence, for freedom.

The National Socialist clique has led to the death of millions of people, brought lack of rights and slavery no less than Bolshevism brought to our Motherland, Russia. Only freedom will deliver us from these enemies of humanity. Long live freedom! Long live unity in the struggle against the enemies of mankind—National Socialist Germany and Bolshevism!

Supreme Commander of the Armed
Forces and the Committee for the
Liberation of the Peoples of Russia,
Lieutenant-General A. Vlasov

5 May 1945

Bunyachenko believed that the actions of his division to save the rebels and Prague from destruction would cause a favorable attitude of the allies. These hopes turned out to be illusory. The Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces had a negative attitude towards the people's liberation movement. And, as you know, he recognized the Red Army as the liberator of Prague.

The division, showing determination, fighting desperately, defeated the German units, captured the airfield, destroyed 50 aircraft and about 100 tanks.

The Czech population gladly greeted the Vlasovites as their liberators. Even in the worst Stalin-Brezhnev times, Praguers believed that they were liberated from the invaders not by Soviet troops, but by the Vlasovites, how and if they saved the city from destruction. Many of its districts, buildings and bridges were mined. In the battles for the liberation of the city from the invaders, the Vlasovites lost from 300 to 700 people. (There are no exact data. - B.G.)

The Czechs highly honor the memory of their liberators. Above their mass graves in the Russian section of the Olshansky cemetery, after the so-called "Velvet Revolution", the inhabitants of the city put a large cross with a wreath of thorns.

On May 7, the most critical day, the rebels turned over the radio to the Red Army for help. They asked to send them tanks and planes. The Red Army did not send them tanks or aircraft, but it could...

On the evening of May 7, after the battle with the Germans, the Vlasovites did not have the slightest doubt that the city would be occupied by Soviet troops. At 3 o'clock General Bunyachenko ordered the departure of the 1st division of the ROA from Prague.

| Bunyachenko S. K. - a former member of the CPSU (b) since 1919, served in the Red Army. Graduated from the Academy. M.V. Frunze. As commander of the 59th Rifle Brigade, Bunyachenko surrendered to the Germans in November 1942 and was placed in a prisoner of war camp in Kherson. Here, having read Vlasov's appeal, he expressed a desire to join the ROA. He taught at officer training schools, then fought in France. For services he was awarded by the Germans with three medals and one order. After the decision was made to create the 1st division, he was appointed its commander and in a short time brought its strength to 20 thousand people.

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During the hostilities between the anticommunists and the occupiers in Prague, the Americans unexpectedly moved their demarcation line farther from Prague to the west. As a result of the change in positions, the Vlasov division, which left Prague, hardly reached the new American front line. Their allies did not let them through, which led to the capture of the division - more than 20 thousand soldiers and officers - by the Red Army and the arrest of all the top commanders of the Vlasov army.

On May 7, unexpectedly for the citizens of Prague and Moscow, two events took place that radically changed the general situation in the city: first, on May 6 there was a general withdrawal from Czechoslovakia of Army Group Center; secondly, on May 8, German troops in Prague capitulated and left it. At the exit from Prague, by common agreement with the rebels, they left them all their heavy weapons: tanks, guns, mortars, self-propelled guns.

ki, etc.

"What kind of surrender is this?" - the Soviet propaganda was noisy, talking about the departure of the Germans from Prague ... Was it really not clear to the Soviet propagandists that at that moment the main thing for the people of Prague was to get rid of the occupiers of TOV.

Thus, the protocol on the terms of surrender of the German armed forces, which was signed on May 8 at 16.00 by the chairman of the CNS Professor Prazhak, his deputy communist Smrkovsky, fully met the interests of Prague and its inhabitants. This document cannot be considered offensive to the Czech side. By the way, examples of agreements on the unhindered withdrawal of enemy garrisons can be found in earlier wars. Thus, in 1813, the victorious Russian and Prussian troops provided the French garrisons of the fortresses of Thorn and Spandau with an unhindered withdrawal on honorable terms, even without surrendering their weapons.

Only those for whom considerations of prestige turned out to be more expensive could call this capitulation a "shameful act"

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the fate of the ancient city and its inhabitants, for whom it was important to physically finish off the already surrendered enemy and make political capital on this. And the Soviet Union, which appropriated to itself the glory of the liberator of Prague, simply had no choice but to disavow the agreement that provided the German troops with an unhindered withdrawal from Prague to the west before the entry of Soviet units there. On May 9, at 4.40, tanks of the 1st Ukrainian Front entered Prague. Major General Ziberov, appointed commandant of the city, whose vanguard broke into the center at dawn and captured

bridges across the Vltava, did not find "organized resistance", as at 10.00 the last pockets of resistance in Prague were finished. Dr. Stepanek-Shtemp rightly remarks that "Prague ... in fact ... was liberated from German troops already on the morning of May 8th." Soviet tanks entered "the already liberated Prague."

The assertion that Prague was liberated by the troops of the Red Army is dictated solely by considerations of a political and propaganda nature, and this thesis is supported only by the silence about the historical role of the 1st division of the ROA in the Prague events of May 6-8, 1945 and due to the discrediting of the agreement between the ChNS and German commander of May 8th. In this regard, it is interesting to see how Soviet authors assess the role of the ROA in the Prague events in those cases when they abandon the default method. Goncharenko and Schneider in the Krasnaya Zvezda newspaper simply twist the historical facts, arguing that Hitler "sent the army of the traitor Vlasov to suppress the uprising."

The commander of the 1st Ukrainian Front, Marshal Konev, confines himself to a brief report on the capture of Vlasov and "General Bunyachenko's division" southeast of Prague, but does not write anything about the battles that preceded this in the Czech capital. According to Army General Lelyushenko, commander of the 4th Guards Tank Army, the "Vlasov gang" was completely defeated at Chemnitz (\\). Army General Shtemenko, after the war - Chief Gen

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of the headquarters of the Soviet Army, although he resorts to insulting nicknames, speaking of "renegades", about "thugs ready for anything", he nevertheless writes that "some Vlasovites entered Prague" "when the time for a decisive uprising against the German occupiers was brewing" and that "certain groups of Vlasovites on their own initiative" entered the struggle, although the Czech National Council supposedly did not want to hear about their help. Of course, all the documents related to these events (the agreement of the Bartosh group with Bunyachenko on May 5, as well as the agreement of the CNS with him on May 7 and the agreement of the CNS with General Toussaint) fundamentally undermine the version of the liberating role of the Red Army. And the attitude of the Soviet representatives to the members of the ROA and even to the members of the ChNS after the occupation of Prague by the Soviet troops shows that they understood this from the very beginning.

Shortly after entering the city, General Rybalko arrived at a meeting of the ChNS to find out extremely important questions for the USSR - "to learn about the meaning of the uprising, its course, the participation of the so-called Vlasov army in it and the capitulation of the Germans." Judging by the general's reaction, the reports received did not satisfy him. He stated bluntly that all Vlasovites would be shot. In response to the "energetic and cordial" requests of the President

In order to spare these people who fought for Prague, General Rybalko made a "generous" concession, declaring that not all of them would be shot.

Hundreds of ROA soldiers were killed in the battles for Prague, many were wounded. The wounded in Prague hospitals were given separate wards, on which the inscription "heroic liberators of Prague" first hung. Shortly after the entry of the Red Army into the city, SMERSHAA authorities began registering the wounded. Dr. Stepanek-Shtemr, who later emigrated to Israel, talks about what happened next:

"I had a friend, my fellow countrywoman from Moravian Ostrava E.R., a young woman who miraculously survived Osventim, Theresienstadt and Dachau. In the first days after windows

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before the war, she worked in Motol, a suburb of Prague. (Next to the hospital there was a large camp for German prisoners, I often went there to conduct interrogations.) E. R. Ras told me that about 200 wounded Vlasovites were lying in the hospital in Motol. One day, Soviet soldiers came to the hospital armed with machine guns. They expelled doctors and nurses from the building, entered the wards in which the seriously wounded Vlasovites were lying, and soon long lines were heard from there ... All the wounded Vlasovites were shot right in their beds ... "

The same fate befell the soldiers who were in other hospitals. S.Auski, on the basis of reliable sources, reports on the execution in Prague and its environs of more than 600 members of the ROA.

The same Vlasov soldiers who remained in the city after the departure of Bunyachenko's division, together with the rebels, fought them to the bitter end.

All were shot on the very first day of entry into Prague on May 9, 1945 by the Red Army units.

Questions without answers

Question one: Why was the offensive against Prague necessary (it began on May 7 from the Central direction)?

No brainer that the 1st Ukrainian Front, having three air armies, and in total more than three thousand aircraft participated in the operation of three fronts, which were able to transfer troops by air in a few hours ... But this was not done! Why?

Question two: Until now, official Russian

Historians believe that in the Czech lands, where more than 120 partisan detachments were active, the uprising in Prague itself is one of the most irresponsible adventures in the history of World War II in Europe. Is not it?

The Smershevites hunted down the Vlasovites all over Prague and even shot the wounded right in the hospital beds. (Author's note)

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Question three: In fact, Bunyachenko's division turned out to be the only real force that saved the rebels from reprisals against them and the city itself from destruction. It was she who, having defeated the Germans, forced them to quickly leave Prague. The Red Army entered the city on the fifth day after the start of the Prague uprising - May 9, 1945. If the Vlasovites had not supported the rebels, the Germans would have destroyed them in one day, and hanged all the survivors from street lamps. A natural question arises: why did neither the Russians nor the Americans support the rebels?

Question four: The ChNS and rebel commanders played a shameful and treacherous role in relation to Bunyachenko's 1st division! Using their help, the Committee refused to cooperate with the Vlasovites and actually forced them to leave the city. This was done under pressure from the communists. But this did not save them from repression by the new government and the Communist Party, which in 1948 seized the country into its own hands.

Members of the Czech National Council were also subjected to persecution, having concluded agreements with Major General Bunyachenko and General Toussaint and depriving the Red Army of the laurels of the saviors of the city. All the members of the CNS, whose names were under the protocol of \$ May, suffered: Professor Prazhak was dismissed from the chair at the university, a representative of the Social Democrats, Dr. Kotliriy also lost his job, General Kutlvashr was sentenced to 20 years in prison, Staff Captain Nekhansky - Kazakh nen. The deputy chairman of the ChNS, a representative of the communist party, Smrkovsky received a life sentence. Among the accusations brought against him was that he "summoned Vlasov's regiments to Prague", which was not true. Even in 1949, we find echoes of the events of those days: the Soviet ambassador in Prague, Zorin, declared at a meeting, where Dr. Makhotka was also present, that the Czechs, having entered into negotiations with the Russians and Germans and signed an agreement with the

'ChNS consisted of 12 people. It included 8 communists.

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crowbar Toussaint about the unhindered withdrawal of German troops, "lost honor."

Fifth question: Stalin behaved towards the popular uprising in Prague in exactly the same way as towards the Warsaw one (1944). Probably, just as in 1944, he was interested in defeating it. He could not forgive the CHNS and the rebel commanders who came into contact with the Vlasovites and the Germans.

The Poles in 1944 fought for more than two months. For sixty-three days Warsaw burned, set on fire by the SS, who systematically massacred the population. More than two hundred thousand people perished. All this time, Soviet troops stood on the opposite bank of the Vistula, watching the battle. They not only watched as the rebels were killed by the Nazis. The Russians did not allow the allies - the Americans and the British - to help the Poles. Stalin did not want Warsaw to be liberated by the Poles, whom he called a "gang of criminals." Therefore, he forbade allied planes with weapons for the rebels to land on the airfields of the Red Army. It was better for Stalin that the Nazis drowned the uprising in blood.

The Western allies dealt with the Prague uprising, perhaps, worse than with the Warsaw one. There was at least an attempt to help, but the Russians stopped it. They showed complete indifference. The Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces actually allowed the Red Army to capture the entire Czecho-Slovakia.

Question six: The losses of the Red Army in combat operations in Czechoslovakia amounted to 140,000; on the day the Soviet tanks entered Prague, the Soviet press reports, more than 1,000 people were killed and wounded. After all, the Germans left Prague on the night of the 8th. And Army Group Center left Czechoslovakia on May 6th.

Question seven: Without a doubt, the Americans made two mistakes, they did not help the rebels. Using this precedent, they could well have taken Prague! They limited themselves to sending two officers to Prague on May 7, who would inform

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told the rebels about the surrender of the German armies and recommended them to stop the uprising, but the Germans still remained in the city. Both Praguers and partly Vlasovites still fight with them huddled.

Correspondence in those days between Winston Churchill and Harry Truman is known. The British Prime Minister asked the American President to intervene in the ongoing events and oblige Eisenhower to occupy Prague. He refused to do this, saying that he did not interfere in the actions of the Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces. Obviously, Truman at the same time hoped for the continuation of allied relations

with Stalin.

The French philosopher Montesquieu once said: "Everyone is obliged, if necessary, to die for his Motherland, but no one can be obliged to lie in the name of the Motherland." Fair words, but not for Stalin's tyranny. Let Soviet propaganda resort to any kind of lie in order to slander and hush up the role of the Russian liberation movement in the liberation of Prague. In all Soviet (Russian) official publications, up to the Bolyina Soviet Encyclopedia, the participants in this anti-communist movement are regarded as traitors and traitors to the motherland.

And, finally, no matter what objections and disputes the decision of Major General Bunyachenko caused, it became part of history, since from the chronology of the events of those days it invariably follows that it is the 1st division of the ROA that belongs to the main - if not all - merit in the liberation Prague from the Germans. This is the historical truth. The version of Soviet historiography, according to which Prague was liberated by the troops of the 1st Ukrainian Front of Marshal Konev, does not stand up to scientific criticism.

When President Benet flew from London to Prague free from the invaders, he gladly received

!PugovkinA. The bitterness of historical truth. Zvezda Magazine. 2003 No. 7.

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Prague Castle of Soviet officers and presented them with the awards of his country.

My division did not participate in direct battles for Prague. Nevertheless, all of us, officers and soldiers, were awarded the medal "For the Liberation of Prague" instituted by the Soviet government! A total of 50,000 medals were minted, of which 40,000 were awarded to citizens of Prague.

I will express a seditious thought: first of all, the fighters and commanders of the 1st division Bunyachenko deserved this medal. But it is known that the main commanders, including the commander of the 1st division, were hanged in Moscow in 1946, in the Butyrka prison. All the officers were shot, and the soldiers were partially shot, and most of them were sent to the Gulag. The medal "For the Liberation of Prague" was made sooner in order to consolidate the historical role of the Red Army in the liberation of Prague.

With this, I would like to complete the general picture of what happened in the last days of the war, but after reading the book by the German historian Joachim Hoffmann?, I saw in it a story about the 331st Rifle Division, its commander, Major General Berestov. The German historian's book is in fact a historical verdict on Stalin and

Red Army, its commanders, not only at the beginning of the Second World War, but also in its final stage, on German territory.

The author, referring to the German documents he collected, as well as the testimony of prisoners of war and defectors (it turns out that they were in 1945), declares all Soviet commanders war criminals responsible for the immoral behavior of their officers and soldiers in East Prussia.

I was a participant and eyewitness of the fighting on the shores of the Baltic

| In total, about 350 thousand people were awarded the medal "For the Liberation of Prague".

2 Joachim Hoffmann. Stalin's war of annihilation. Planning, implementation, documents. M., publishing house AST-ASTREL, 2006.

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and also lived for about three months afterwards in Lower Silesia, so I dare to judge the events that took place there. It is clear that I cannot evaluate the behavior of all units of the 3rd Belorussian Front, but I knew more about what happened in my division, how officers and soldiers behaved with the civilian population.

It is true that the Red Army, having entered German soil, took revenge on both the Wehrmacht and the civilian population "in a black way", took revenge on the Germans for the monstrous crimes committed on Russian soil. Often no distinction was made between the Nazis and the civilian population. There were mass rapes, mass looting, mass executions and solitary murders and terrible mass deportations, but I doubt what Joachim Hoffmann tells about, or rather, about the actions of the military personnel of the 331st Rifle Division. Here are some excerpts I have taken from his book.

The author writes that in Landsberg, Soviet soldiers from the 331st Rifle Division imprisoned hundreds of stunned people, including women and children, in basements, set fire to houses and began to shoot at people running in panic. Many were burned alive.

In a village near the Landsberg-Heilsberg road, servicemen of the same rifle division kept 37 women and girls locked up for 6 days and nights. There they were partially chained and, with the participation of officers, raped many times a day. Due to desperate cries, two of these Soviet officers in front of everyone cut out the tongues of two women with a "semicircular knife ...". Two other women had their folded hands nailed to the floor with bayonets. German tank soldiers in the final

account managed to free only a few of the unfortunate, 20 women died from abuse. In Khaishaten near Kreisk-Elau (now Bagrationovsk, Russia), Red Army men from the 331st Rifle Division shot dead two mothers who opposed the rape of their daughters, and a father, whose daughter was thrown out of the kitchen and raped

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Soviet officer. Those killed were a teacher couple with three children, an unknown refugee girl, a tavern keeper and a farmer whose 21-year-old daughter was raped. In Petershaten, near Preisshi-Elau, soldiers of this division killed two men and a 16-year-old boy named Richard von Hoffmann, subjecting women and girls to severe violence.

The facts cited by the German historian Joachim Hoffmann were drawn by him from the archives of the Department of Foreign Armies of the Eastern Front of the General Staff of the Ground Forces, led during the war years by Major General Hellen. These are mainly records of officers of the German army, based on testimonies. It is known that testimonies are not always truthful, accurate and sometimes distort reality. I have already enumerated many immoral deeds, including those committed in our division. But to cut out the tongues and noses of German civilians, cut out women's breasts, cut off human heads, cut open their stomachs, cut off arms and legs, strangle them, carve devil knows what on their chests, throw children into a fire, kill babies, gouge out their eyes, nail people to the boards, whether they are torn apart by tanks - sorry, all this is a typical example of propaganda rhetoric. Both the Germans and the Red Army were engaged in it.

And here is what I read about the commander of the 331st division, Major General Berestov: of his officers was raped by the daughter of a peasant, whom he forced to serve, as well as a Polish girl, and, in addition, bears, in addition to responsibility for numerous war crimes committed by his division near Preus-Eillau and Landsberg, of which she became from

only a tiny fraction is known."

Again, the information is obtained from German documents from the archives of Major General Hellen.

The author tells the same thing about what happened

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in Lower Silesia. Based in Friedeberg (Lower Si-

lesia) after the end of the war for about three months, I met with many Germans. They did not feel much love for us, the winners. But almost everyone recognized the humane attitude of the 331st division and the divisional commander towards the civilian population.

Speaking about the historical significance of the Prague operation, Hoffmann points out what should be considered only on the basis of the actual contribution of the Vlasovites to the Prague uprising, regardless of the loyalty of the Russians to the alliance with the Germans and the success of the Bunyachenko plan itself. Entering the fight at a critical moment, the 1st division of the ROA managed to occupy, with the exception of a few islands of German resistance, the entire western part of Prague and a vast area on the eastern bank of the Vltava up to Strasnice. The forces of the ROA were not enough to occupy the entire city, but, having cut the city into two parts, they prevented the connection of German reserves from the north and south. S. Auski rightly notes that if it were not for the 1st division of the ROA, the Germans would have succeeded in occupying the western regions of Prague on May 6, and on May 7 they would have completely suppressed the uprising. Even the unexpected cessation of hostilities on the night of May 8 and the withdrawal of parts of the ROA of the city had positive consequences, indirectly contributing to the agreement between the CNS and General Toussaint on the unhindered withdrawal of German troops. And finally, no matter what objections and disputes the decision of Major General Bunyachenko caused, it became part of history, since it follows from the chronology of events of those days that it is precisely the 1st division of the ROA that belongs to the main - if not all - merit in liberation of Prague from the Germans. This is the historical truth. The version of Soviet historiography, according to which Prague was liberated by the troops of the 1st Ukrainian Front of Marshal Konev, does not withstand scientific criticism and is just a legend.

"Everything - from strategy to tactics - was marked by Stalinist inhumanity."

K.Simonov

Head of the Dvenadiata

DAY OF THE GREAT VICTORY

Sudetes. May 8, 1945. 8 am

In the Sudetes, the division took up defensive positions, setting up so-called checkpoints on the roads to Prague. We didn't fight the enemy. Others did it. After heavy fighting in East Prussia, we were not up to "CATCHING UP".

Very soon the battalion reached the forward post to reinforce it. In general, all actions in the Sudetenland resembled children's games. At least one of the fifty enemy divisions located in the western part of Czechoslovakia would attack, and we would be left with only feathers. According to the latest intelligence, the German units began to retreat to the West even before our arrival in the Sudetenland.

Our mobile battalion enters the suburbs of the Czech city of Slivice. We don't know about it yet. The streets are busy. Everyone rushes to the center for a rally on the occasion of the long-awaited liberation from the invaders. At dawn the Germans left the city. An elderly Czech woman says that three officers who lived in her house did not have time to pick up their overcoats. The second woman consults what she should do with the dog abandoned by the Germans. Someone needs medical help. The boy happily reports that he found a warehouse with food on the next street.

I jump out of the car, note the time on my watch: I have only ten minutes. I cross the street and stop at the nearest house. I knock on the door. Opens young

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pretty woman. I ask in German for a glass of cold water. Suddenly, smiling pleasantly, she answers me in pure Russian: "Come in, captain, I'm Russian." I enter and immediately find myself in a richly furnished living room. On the wall are pictures in expensive frames. I think I've seen them somewhere. I do not remember. The mistress of the house brings under her breath with a glass of wine. "I think," she says flirtatiously, "you deserve a glass of French champagne today." Leaving, thanking, I nevertheless asked: "What is your name? How did you get here?" "I am from Crimea. My name is Vera, and how I got here, obviously, I will have to tell in another place," she replied. At parting, Vera throws in stunning news: "London radio broadcast that today at midnight in Potsdam the German generals will sign the "Act of Unconditional Surrender" with the Russians. I kindly advised her to quickly pack up her things and get ready for home. A few minutes later the column of cars and the battery that closed them moved on. On Thursday, they celebrated Victory Day with faith. One can write a whole novel about these happy hours in the lives of millions of people on the planet and all of us, front-line soldiers. And it will certainly be written.

Sudetes. May 8, 1945. 12 a.m

The meeting with one of the advanced posts was shocking. Such a mess that we encountered there, no one saw during the war. The soldiers are drunk. They make such roundabouts that it seemed that the earth had opened up. Around a magnificent fire, in the garden, in front of a three-story house, a fire that

which almost rested on the sky, the soldiers, some in tunics, some in undershirts, some barefoot, without caps, belts, danced and shouted something like crazy. They were surrounded by a crowd of the same savages. Someone was clapping their hands furiously. Shots rang out with might and main, of course upwards. The accordion was played, accompanied by the piano. Slav brothers, you dragged a huge table from the room into the garden and behind it with might and main

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feasted. Bottles of wine and beer were scattered everywhere. Czechs and Czechs, local peasants in elegant national clothes danced interspersed with the soldiers. Here is an example, but the picture that appeared before my eyes. Our commander, lieutenant colonel, assistant chief of staff of the division, from the whole sight of this farcical spectacle, as it seemed to him, very far from the military situation, immediately became furious. He grabbed the post commander by the collar of his tunic and began to shake him.

- What's going on here? thundered the lieutenant colonel. - Instead of combat duty - booze and revelry! Senior lieutenant, you are in big trouble. In the meantime, I remove you from your post and ask you to immediately surrender your weapons!

All of a sudden, everything around fell silent. The soldiers and the local population were waiting to see what would happen next. And then THAT happened...

— Go you! the senior lieutenant replied unexpectedly contemptuously and loudly. He literally shouted to the lieutenant colonel in the face: - The war is over! The enemy is defeated! Victory! And old fools like you don't know shit, and if they do, they hide it from their subordinates. They are waiting for instructions from above. The unconditional surrender of the Germans was accepted by the allies yesterday in Reims, and today, on the night of the 9th, a second surrender will be signed in Notsdam.

The lieutenant colonel was confused, fell silent, and then mumbled:

- God! How did I miss such a historical event - the Victory?

- I thought to myself: how did the young officer know about this? The Czechs reported or "soldier's telegraph"?

Without any command, without saying a word, in a single moment, we, officers and soldiers, standing at the arriving cars, rushed to meet our comrades, hugged them tightly, kissed them. How many days and nights all of us, participants in the war, have been waiting for this Great Day. They took off their caps, unbuckled their belts, and joyfully joined in the general rejoicing. The soldiers picked up the bewildered lieutenant colonel and

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thrown up, carefully lowered to the ground. He shouted at the top of his voice:
"Dance, guys, dance! You deserved this bright Holiday!"

From the open windows on the upper floors of the house, chairs, unscrewed table legs, bookcases, bookshelves and books themselves, travel suitcases, bundles of old clothes, cardboard boxes, piles of hangers, wall reproductions flew to the ground. The soldiers carefully picked up all this and immediately threw it into the fire.

Sudetes. May 8, 1945. 11 p.m

Suddenly I heard a familiar voice, it seemed to me: "Comrade Captain! Comrade Captain! I turned around and immediately recognized in the soldiers standing in front of me those with whom in Prussia I celebrated the receipt of my captain's rank.

- There seemed to be five of you then, today there are three.

'That's right, captain! The war mowed down our brother until the last day. Vasko - remember the swarthy lad from Ukraine? - forever left in the Prussian land. And Nilv Koenigsberge remained in a hospital bed for a long time. Dolba zeros in the last battle.

On that first or second victorious night, to be honest, I got confused in capitulations, we are together again: Pavel, Ivan, Kondrat and me. We sat around a fire lit in honor of the Victory. They were silent for a long time, looking at the fire. It seems to me that each of us in these moments is keeping his own accounts with the past war, remembering the living and the dead. And each of us believed that it was he, and not anyone else, who achieved a miracle - Victory!

What was the first thing I thought about that night? It may seem paradoxical to the reader what I will say next. Despite the bloody torments and countless human tragedies, unthinkable hardships (they lasted 1418 days of the war), all of us, its participants, will remember the past time all subsequent years, as the most significant,

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bright and honest event in your life. And so it went on...

The silence is over. Kondrat was the first to confess:

- Back in Prussia, I pushed the news to my Maruska.

Looks like I'm still alive. The Almighty has helped! What do you think, answered my woman?
"Do not return, dear, to the village. You are alone in 140 houses - thank God, you are alive. The widows will muzzle you and me. But I was born in that Voropakha and lived there for almost 30 years?

Pavel posted his story:

- My brother, Yashka, returned from the war without both hands back in forty-three. Dunka, in order to caress the disabled hero, kneel before him and kiss the bloody stumps of his hands, clinked in his face: "Damn you, your nannies, who wrote for you for more than a year. Wait for your hubby, exactly "cucumber"! The brother did not succumb to the bitch woman. Kicked her out. He began to learn, as it were, "yage" from the Chinese on his own, with the help of his legs, instead of hands, to begin a new life. But she is a villain, driving Yashka into a corner farther and farther (Oh, woe to you, a disabled beggar in the Soviet country - during the war and after it! - B.G.). Soon I realized: "We, the disabled, are more objectionable," wrote Yashka. Sad. And retired from life. Hey, life is a penny, and fate is a turkey ... It seems that they have been saying in Rus' for a long time.

I have my own account with the Nazis. After the liberation from the occupiers of Kyiv, I became aware that in Babi Yar the Germans and their Ukrainian accomplices had killed thirteen of my relatives, including my three-year-old child Vovochka.

A week before the start of the war, I received the last letter from my cousin, Mark. His regiment, in which he served, was stationed not far from the border. On the very first day of the war, June 22, 1941, the regiment was completely destroyed, and Mark disappeared without a trace. I have already told about his fate. But I did not throw out my feelings on such an extraordinary day.

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Suddenly Pavel started up and spoke:

"That's right, captain, you're talking about it!" Our pas has also arrived! There was great joy for all of us. So excuse me, dear friend, poisoned the souls, and feel better. Just understand, captain, a soldier. Painfully, our brother was hindered by the war, Mother Rus' flooded with maternal tears. Tell me what's wrong?

What could I say in response to these simple and honest people who, without hiding or hiding anything, opened their hearts behind the elephants? And I had to say something loud, even pathetic, and I said:

- We are winners! And that's it. We, peasants, have duly fulfilled our duty to the Fatherland, and now, I am sure, the Motherland will fulfill its duty to each of

us. It should be!

The winners—Pavel, Kondraty, and Ivan—accepted my words in silence. Along with jubilation, it seemed to me, something was holding them back from participating in the general human delight. I noticed then that experienced officers and soldiers behaved more restrained, as it seemed to me, than young people.

This is how the first victorious night ended.

What was it that tormented the souls of the soldiers and officers that day and that night? It was not in vain that they fought with the enemy, not sparing their lives, in order to save the Fatherland. And they saved him! And how will the Motherland meet? That, obviously, is where the doubts lie... Here is the main question now. It was painfully unnatural, from the very first day of the Victory, the trumpeter and drummers gave praise to the Supreme - it was he who won the Great Victory, and not the Soviet soldier. How should I understand this? Everything was confused then in the minds of people - and great joy, and great tragedy, and great fear.

For a long time, until dawn, we sat by the fire and, looking at the food brought, recalled the bitter and most joyful days in the war - there was enough of both. Sleep is not good. Thus passed the first victorious night. And in the end, it seemed to all of us then that life was ahead of us, according to

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the winners, waiting for the same bright, the same desired, joyful, like the flames of a fire!

Departing on the way back, the battalion again stopped in the suburb of Slavice. One car left at the station was supposed to join us. I go to a familiar house. The door is opened by a young man. I ask about Vera. The new owner shrugs. The authorities gave him, the commander of a partisan detachment, this house as a token of gratitude for saving the city from destruction. He kindly invites you to visit, to have a drink with him in honor of the Victory. We drank in the same living room, with the same expensively framed paintings on the walls. It seems that nothing has changed? Suddenly, I noticed two portraits on the same wall: the country's president, Eduard Beneš, and the communist leader, Kliment Gottwald.

The partisan, catching my eye, declared categorically: "The time will come and we, the Communists, will remove one of these portraits." At that time I did not attach any importance to the words I had said, although I thought about how quickly events were taking place... Only three years had passed. The Czechs really do this. This happened when, with the help of the Soviet Union, the Czech communists, under the leadership of their leader, seized power in the country.

First post-war days

The battalion was taken to the reserve. We are waiting for the order. Powerful "stu debakers" are safely hidden in factory garages. The command occupied a luxurious villa where the owner of three textile factories lived. Around it is a magnificent park with a beautiful five-story hotel. During the war, a hospital was located here. Now there are infantry and artillery. The gardener said that the German owner, with his wife, children and maids, had fled a week ago.

At the station there is a collection point. The villa is on a hill and I have a good view of everything that happens on the highway.

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Thousands of German prisoners of war - officers and soldiers are moving along the highway to Slivice.

By noon the situation changes. The civilian population appears. At first loners, then small groups, which soon turn into crowds. A continuous living stream of refugees fills the highway. Carts with families are crawling, someone is dragging small carts with belongings, loners on bicycles are trying to break through the dense mass of people. Most are on foot. People wander, barely moving their legs, where their eyes look. Many of them are shod in wooden shoes. Their knock intensifies, turning into a hum. The French, Danes, Russians, Ukrainians, Poles, Belgians are coming...

General excitement increases. The people are badly dressed. Former prisoners of the camps, and there are more and more of them, in traditional prison attire. The variety of human types is striking. At the same time, there is one thing in common. Many have the so-called "identification mark" sewn on their clothes, and no one rips it off. He let the Nazis determine how they should treat their slaves.

By evening, the picture on the road changes. Armed Czechs, with bandages on their hands, set up a barrier on the road, near the city. They stop those coming from the city and take everything from them. Well, just like how we are in Russia in the seventeenth.

The next day, representatives of the local authorities came to us and invited us to visit. A luxurious table was prepared right on the city square. They drank, hugged, swore eternal friendship. After the celebration, we were invited to an evening performance by a toque French chanson troupe stuck in the city. I would like to visit, but, alas, we are waiting for the order.

Returning to the battalion, I noticed another piece of news on the highway.

It was as if the Smershevites had fallen from the sky, in brand new clothes, with machine guns. They put up a barrier on the highway. They took control of the non-stop human movement.

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They were delivered, as we learned, by planes, by several regiments directly from Russia. They set up so-called checkpoints (checkpoints for short) on all roads in the Soviet zone of occupation.

As I noticed, they were primarily interested in the returnees with the "O\$".

Documents were checked for formality. Who had them then? They checked for weapons. Nothing was taken from anyone. Politely invited to continue the journey in cars that constantly stood on the side of the highway. Several officers, my comrades, went downstairs and approached the checkpoint.

"Where are you taking people?" one of us asked the senior Smershev. He calmly replied: "We do not hide from anyone. The Americans and the British organize camps for displaced persons in their zones. We also did this. We want to help Soviet citizens driven into captivity to return home, to their homeland."

That was true, but not complete, as I will tell later. Very soon it became known that over a hundred so-called filtration camps had been set up in the vast territory occupied by Soviet troops in just a few weeks after the end of the war in the Soviet occupation zone in Germany. They brought thousands of men and women driven by the Nazis from the Soviet cities occupied by them and sat down for forced labor in Germany. There was a super-task, which was not talked about then, but its intention became clear later: to prevent the exodus of former Soviet people to the West.

As we were about to leave the highway, suddenly, before our very eyes, a scene took place that cannot be left unsaid. The Smershevites stopped a man and a woman. They walked holding each other's hands. The man turned out to be a Frenchman in his thirties, thin, short, a head shorter than his strongly built companion with traces of her former beauty on her face. In their eyes, in which dazzling lights shone a few minutes ago, a wild glare immediately appeared.

pug.

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Neither the Frenchman nor the woman with the "O\$&" patch on her dress understood why they were stopped, what was happening. In the first minutes, the Frenchman was so confused that he could not pick up a few words in Russian that he knew. Then he began to desperately resist, not letting go of the woman. Fell to my knees. Turned to God!

"Why did the Almighty turn out to be so stingy to give for the good?"
Gave him only three days of happiness - to be together. He spoke French, German, cried, begged. But they did not understand him, or rather, they did not want to understand, rather, they laughed at him.

They were skillfully and quickly separated. Then, unexpectedly for everyone, the Frenchman followed the Russian to the car. He was stopped and explained: "You are "e\$, and she is "Ea\$. So you are in different directions. Literally lost, he stood for a few more minutes until the cars disappeared around the bend, and then, staggering, trudged alone in the direction of Slivice. He could not understand why they were separated, how could he live on alone? Will he ever find the woman he loves? In youth, we often see only what is nearby, and, unfortunately, we rarely think about what is hidden behind it.

We were all thrilled by what we saw. Someone suggested catching up with the French. When we met with François - that was his name - this is what he said. They met by chance. He worked with a group of French prisoners of war in a German car workshop, and Tanya worked as a laborer not far away on a farm with a German owner. Once she caught a Frenchman in the master's field when he was trying to pick up a couple of dried carrots from the ground. She could, but she didn't. Since then, at the appointed place, she left some vegetables for him and his comrades. How this "charitable" activity would have ended for her is hard to imagine. Ideally, the owner would beat her decently.

1 Directives of the Headquarters of the Supreme High Command "On the procedure for the reception and maintenance of Soviet and foreign prisoners of war and the civilian population released from German captivity" No. 11086, May 11, 1945. S. Ya. Lavrenev, I. M. Popov. The collapse of the Sh Reich, M.: Ast-Ayrel, 2000. S. 572-574.

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Freedom came unexpectedly. They spent three days together in the deserted master's house. The three happiest days of their lives. They dreamed of the future. François told her about Paris, about the lovely mother whom he idolized, but had not seen for many years.

Tanya did not know French, he did not speak her native language. They spoke mainly in German. And now they are free people, and their hearts and feelings henceforth belong only to them alone. However, in such cases

In tears, love does not need any grammatical rules. François wept helplessly, like a child. He will not rest until he finds Tanya, and he will definitely write to Marshal Stalin. Very soon, Marshal Stalin will take care of the morality of his subjects by issuing a law prohibiting marriage with foreign citizens.

In those first post-war days in May 1945, I thought something like this: "The war is over. Peace has come. With him, for all of us, front-line soldiers, who miraculously survived, came the end of suffering, fear of death, fear for relatives and friends. All of us, having escaped from the bloody hell, must become brothers. Why, then, should a small square patch on a shirt, invented by villains for people who have experienced enormous physical and moral suffering, separate them in different directions? To deprive the moral right of free human choice, to turn them into slaves again... Naive reasoning, but then they did not go any further.

I remembered this story about "Romeo and Juliet" in the Court when thirty years later I saw Valentin Zorin's play "Warsaw Melody" in Kyiv. The combat Soviet officer and the Polish girl Jadwiga (she was played by the wonderful actress Ada Rogovtseva) fell in love, but did not go against the law.

Soon we found ourselves in Germany, and I and my comrades were captured by new thoughts, feelings and interests.

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and * *

Often, Russian citizens in conversations and in the press today express reproaches against their former allies, and primarily the Americans, for neglecting the common Victory Day.

It seems to me that these reproaches, especially of today's youth, are unfounded. They can rather be explained by ignorance and misunderstanding of American traditions, by the attitude of Americans to any wars.

Here are a few notes to clarify the point said.

About the cult of Victory

There is no World War II cult in America. May 8, 1945, and September 3, 1945 - Victory Day over Japan - pass almost unnoticed. These victorious days are not indicated in the calendar. Why?!

One journalist rightly said that for young people this event means no more than the Trojan War. As the children of front-line soldiers who returned from the war testify, their fathers and grandfathers did not tell them anything. American psychologists explain it this way: "Our society hardly accepts wars. In times of war, we require our soldiers to do things that do not meet our moral standards, and when they return, they do not want to talk about it. They also don't want to because the memories are too painful; because they feel - the one who was not there is not able to understand them.

Steven Spielberg decided to break this conspiracy of silence. He did not set himself grandiose tasks. As he puts it, "You can't expect the audience to really 'understand' the Holocaust after 'Schindler's List' or feel deeply about World War II after 'Saving Private Ryan'." But maybe this film will encourage some to start asking questions."

The modest expectations of the director were more than justified. Immediately after the release of the film, interest in the dock increased sharply.

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mental books about the war - they are increasingly difficult to get in libraries. Especially in demand are the serious and lively writings of the historian Stephen Ambrose, who founded the Normandy Landing Museum and was a consultant on the film. Ambrose's *Citizen Soldiers* is on the bestseller list. Spielberg said, "It's good that the film helped close the generational gap. It happens that right in the cinemas and on the streets after watching 20-year-olds approach 70-year-olds to express their gratitude to them. The newspapers confirm this. They print letters from young people, for example: "Now I understand why my grandfather, a member of the landing, never told about this."

Military historians have recognized "Saving Private Ryan" as the most accurate and truthful film about the war.

Spielberg's film set a new "bar of authenticity" in war movies. The cruelty of the picture became a way for the director to break through, to get through to the viewer.

No official or public events are held in the country on Victory Days, except for a long-standing attempt by Congress to pass a resolution demanding that Russia recognize the illegality of the "occupation" of the Baltic states in 1940-1991. The Russian Duma recently adopted a preventive Decree condemning attempts to "revise the results of the Second World War." It seems that it is not worth being offended by the same USA for their not too enthusiastic attitude towards our holiday. Each nation has its own war, and trying to "build" the whole world under one Victory means to belittle its self-sufficient significance for

Russia. It is much more reasonable to try to understand the peculiarities of the attitude towards the last world war in other countries that took part in it.

In connection with what has been said, the reader will be interested in reading Nikolai Zimin's article "The Non-American Dream".

America traditionally lives by its own ideas about the importance of historical events and when and what to celebrate. At the same time, attention and care

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on the part of the state, American veterans of World War II are not offended. Our atmosphere of joy "with tears in our eyes" is somewhat similar to two local national holidays - Memorial Day, also celebrated in May, on the last Monday, and Veterans Day - November 11th. The main difference between American celebrations is that every year, regardless of the roundness of dates, the United States honors the living and the fallen soldiers of all wars - righteous and unrighteous, lost and won. The degree of tolerance of collective historical memory in the United States is best indicated by the fact that, for example, Memorial Day came to the national holiday calendar from the southern states. It began to be celebrated there shortly after the Civil War of the North and South, since 1868, by laying wreaths on the graves of fallen soldiers who fought on the side of the Confederate and on the side of the Union.

Our Civil War happened much later than the American one, and yet the state does not remember it, preferring less controversial historical events.

American Veterans Day was born out of the United States' participation in World War I. In 1919-1953 it was called "Day of Reconciliation". For several decades now, the Department of Veterans Affairs (in America, unlike Russia, there is such an agency) has had a special committee that organizes commemorative celebrations. But the Victory Day in World War II somehow did not find a place either in the state ideology of the United States or in the mass consciousness. According to experts, the reason for this was many different factors.

"The attitude of the Americans towards World War II is initially contradictory and incomparable with the attitude prevailing in Europe, and especially in Russia," Nikolai Zlobin, doctor of historical sciences, director of Russian programs at the Washington Center for Defense Information, told the Russian magazine Itogi. - Let's remember

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how long the US could not decide for itself the question of whether to enter the war or not. For them, it was another European showdown; the not very successful experience of participation in the First World War, which gave rise to post-war American isolationism, was fresh in their memory. It took a lot of effort for the Roosevelt administration to prove to Congress and the country the need for such participation. The decisive factor was not Hitler's attack on the USSR, but the most difficult situation and the possible collapse of Great Britain. In addition, America soon went through two more wars - in Korea and in Vietnam. As a historian, I dare say that each successive war replaces the memories of the previous one. It is Korea and Vietnam that have remained in public memory as American wars. Their tragedies, their heroes, their victims, and the political problems they gave birth to are closer to American society than anything that happened before. In the same way, for us, the Great Patriotic War, as it were, closed the Civil War.

And, perhaps, the most important political nuance. For America and other Western democracies, the outcome of the war was not, in fact, entirely comforting. The successes of the Soviet Army and the heroism of its soldiers contributed to the spread of communist regimes in Europe and Asia, the establishment of communism as the main force opposing the West. England, one of the victorious powers, lost 47% of the territory of the former British Empire as a result of the war and never regained its pre-war influence. And how to regard the post-war division of the world and the beginning of the Cold War? From the point of view of the West, these facts are difficult to classify as positive changes.

In addition to historical and political reasons, there are also psychological reasons why Americans perceive victory in World War II in a completely different way than Russia does. "It is a fact that Americans are less interested in history and collective memory than the peoples of other countries," said James Wurch, professor at Washington University in St. Louis, in an interview with Itogi. - One of

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The reasons are the mentality of immigrants, which often implies the need to leave the past behind and start everything from scratch. It may look strange in the eyes of other peoples, but nevertheless it is an integral part of our national psychology. And I would not consider it as an exclusively negative phenomenon. In some cases, it is useful for overcoming the burden of painful periods of the past. In general, the "pain threshold" of Americans is much lower than that of Russians. They do not seek to traumatize the psyche with memories of the events of the most terrible war in the history of mankind. Yes, and the reasons for this

the Americans, I must say, much less. "God delivered us from those trials that fell on you. During all the years of the war, we lost 291,557 people (in Russia, the figure of losses in that war has not yet been calculated even approximately. - "Results") - less than those killed in only one battle for Stalingrad or in the battle of Kursk, emphasizes Professor Werch. "Historically, almost all serious researchers in the United States are united: your country was the main actor and the main victim of the war in Europe."

In the mass American consciousness, the events and facts of the Second World War sometimes undergo such metamorphoses that it is simply amazing. American culture generally tends to simplify everything and everything for the convenience of mass consumption - be it food or history. As a result, ways are invented to ignore, downplay, or simply "forget" certain historical facts in order to draw up a line that is convenient for perception by the mass consciousness. To be convinced of this, it suffices to leaf through American school textbooks. Writer and publicist David Sutter, who is working on a book about the comparative historical memory of the American and Russian peoples, recalls: "During my school years, about forty years ago, I knew nothing at all about the role of the USSR in World War II..."

Having lived in the US for over fifteen years, obviously I'm entitled to my own opinion on Zee's judgment.

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mine. What they said is mostly true. And at the same time, it is impossible not to mention some doubts that have arisen. What are they? The truth lies not in the loud words of the authorities that "no one is forgotten, nothing is forgotten", and uttered, as a rule, on memorable days, but in a constant attitude towards their veteran citizens ...

In the United States of America, veterans of all wars, including World War II, are surrounded by constant care and attention, which Russian veterans can only dream of! This country even has a Department of Veterans Affairs...

But let me give you one example. In 2008, Boston University invited Artem Drabkin, founder and organizer of the Internet website I Remember, to come to America from Moscow to meet with veterans, faculty, and students.

He accepted the invitation and came to Providence. He shared his experience of publishing military-historical literature in Russia. He spoke about his website, which contains biographies of 500 veterans. However, alas, only a few students from the Slavic Department came to his interesting lecture. When I asked the head of

Phaedra: "Why didn't the students come to the lecture?" She replied: "They are not interested in the military topic, but in our country all people have the right to freedom of choice."

And free choice is one of the absolute conditions in the whole democratic country, but there is one circumstance that Americans should not forget: the United States of America is now in the vanguard of all democratic countries - a fierce and uncompromising war against the Islamic world, which is trying to destroy the right of all people on our planet to "free choice" IN LIFE.

And now it is already clear that this monster is no better than our Nazism. And the duty, first of all, of the younger generation is to stop and defeat it, just as my generation destroyed fascism in the Second World War at the cost of the lives of millions of young men and women.

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I am concerned about the forgetfulness of many men and women about what humanity had to endure in the twentieth century and what it cost ...

I would like to wrap up my commentary on Zimin's article with a short excerpt from a review by Pyotr Merezhitsky, a talented writer and publicist, of my book *The Rzhevskaya Meat Grinder*, published in Moscow in 2007. Here is what he writes in the publication of a Russian-language newspaper in America:

"It is interesting that as the theme of the Great Patriotic War fades away in the Russian-language press, it flares up in the English-language one. Why? Is it not because the most profound of Western intellectuals understand that the war against their peoples for the values of civilization is yet to come, and they must prepare their nations for the thought of the price that may have to be paid to defend these values.

"Our consciousness," the author of the review points out, "moves along a run-in trajectory, so it is easier for him to live without involving new facts of history and actors. And this is despite the fact that history daily highlights new historical facts and characters - too lazy to look back and honor the memory of the past. Why blame the Americans?

"Falsehood exposed is just as important an acquisition for the good of mankind as truth clearly expressed."

L. Tolstoy

Chapter Thirteen

MOTHERLAND IS WAITING FOR YOU!

Sudetes. May 8, 1945

Our mobile battalion leaves for the suburbs of the Czech city of Slivice. Ordered to take control of the railway station and move on. The world rejoices: the enemy is defeated! We don't know about it yet. The streets are busy. Everyone rushes to the center for a rally on the occasion of the long-awaited liberation from the occupiers.

A month passed after Czechoslovakia, and the 331st division, where I then served. I was sent to Germany, or rather, to Lower Silesia, to the city of Friedeberg, where I spent the first 90 days after the end of the war. Very soon the division was disbanded here.

In the 1970s, I read the memoirs of General Gorbatov in the Novy Mir magazine. From them I learned about the fate of the 1st Ukrainian Front. Of his five armies, three were sent to the Far East. They were to take part in the final defeat of Japan. Two disbanded, including ours, the 31st. Many older officers and soldiers were sent to Russia and demobilized, the young ones were left to serve in the army. I, like many officers, was offered to go to Vienna, to the reserve of the Central Group of Forces, or to a new service in Hungary. I chose the second.

By agreement of the Soviet government with an ally

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We at the Yalta Conference and in Potsdam Lower Silesia, where we were then, were transferred to Poland. Stalin gave an unspoken command: before the German territory was handed over to the Poles, "to strip it naked", which was done
lano.

Engineering units arrived, specialists were brought in: installers, electricians, mechanics. They blocked railway traffic for the troops stationed in Lower Silesia. Entire factories, furniture, iron, boards, fabrics, bricks, even sand, cement, nails, animals, grain, books were taken out by rail ... Five officers, including me, sent to Hungary, were attached to an artillery brigade. It was supposed to be relocated to Hungary, but got stuck and waited for the end of the transportation of "foreign goods" under the guise of reparations to devastated Russia.

It became known that, on Stalin's orders, so-called filtration camps were set up to check the liberated government workers, as well as former Soviet citizens who were driven away by the occupiers and worked in Germany, as well as Russian prisoners of war who were in the camps of the Americans and the British.

All displaced persons, that is, people who were forced to leave their native places and live in a foreign land during the Second World War as a result of the actions of the invaders, received the abbreviated title "D-pi" (O15paceya persop\$ - English), defined by the League of Nations.

People who drank so much grief, endured separation from loved ones and relatives, and endured so much suffering in the Nazi state, could not imagine in those first joyful post-war days that Comrade Stalin had already secretly sent out to the punitive authorities a tough outfit for millions of new GULAG prisoners - free labor strength. By any means, it was ordered to take out all the living from the allied camps of displaced persons and deliver them to Russia.

On the same days, I remember, from morning to evening we pass by

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Studebakers raced along the roads. Above the driver's cabin in all the cars was firmly attached a plywood shield with the words written on it in bold large letters: "The Motherland is waiting for you!" The routes of all vehicles were the same: at first to the American or British zone of Germany, and back to the filtration camps in the Soviet zone.

Often I stood on the side of the highway and watched the flow of cars. If in one direction they swept empty, then in the other they were filled with men or women. People willingly greeted us, officers and soldiers of the Red Army. We answered the same, wished them happiness! It is known that it did not smile at all the "returned", as they were called.

A few figures and facts from official statistics. By the autumn of 1944 there were 7.5 million foreign workers in Germany. All of them were brought by force from the West and the East. They were sent to plants, factories, fields, mines, hospitals, construction sites. In all countries occupied by the German army, healthy men, women, adolescents were sought out and sent by force to slave labor in the Third Reich. The operation for these barbaric actions was codenamed "Haymaking". Where violent recruitment met with resistance, villages were burned to the ground and the inhabitants hauled off in trucks. Of the millions of slaves, as established at the Nuremberg trials (1946), hardly 200,000 volunteered to work for Germany. Ensuring the Reich

the free labor force was led by Fritz Sauckel'.

By the end of the war, there were more than 5 million former Soviet citizens in Germany and other German-occupied European countries.

These are the surviving prisoners of war, and the stolen

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On the night of October 16, 1946, Fritz Sauckel was hanged by the verdict of the Nuremberg Court. (Author's note)

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workers and peasants, these are also thousands of people, whole families who left with the Germans during their retreat, as well as a significant number of white emigrants.

Of this total body of so-called displaced persons, 2.5 million were women. They worked mainly in agriculture. Of course, their living conditions were somewhat better, but they also lived in difficult conditions. Here are some explanations. No complaints were accepted. Visiting churches and cultural institutions was forbidden to people. Sexual intercourse was strictly forbidden. For sexual intercourse with German citizens, execution was supposed. Forced laborers did not have the right to use the railway, public transport. The employer was allowed to use corporal punishment. As a rule, they placed their workers in various outbuildings unsuitable for normal habitation. They paid meager wages.

For the purpose of organized and quick repatriation, a special department was created under the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR back in October 1944, the exact name was "Office of the Commissioner of the Council of People's Commissars for Repatriation Affairs." It was headed by the former head of Soviet intelligence, General F.I. Golikov.

According to statistics, until March 1946, the Golikov department repatriated a total of 5,352,963 Soviet citizens to the USSR, including 1,825,774 former military personnel. The total also included displaced persons within the USSR.

The fate of the returnees

Three months before the end of the war, on January 18, 1945, a secret Directive was sent to the military councils of all fronts, as well as to the commanders of the Western districts. It was signed by the head of the rear of the Red Army

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General Khrulev and General Golikov. This Directive actually determined the fate of hundreds of thousands of prisoners of war and displaced persons who were in Germany and in other countries.

All persons who ended up in filtration camps were divided into three accounting groups:

1st - prisoners of war and encirclement;

2nd - ordinary policemen, village elders, other citizens caught in treasonous activities;

3rd - civilians of military age who lived on the territory of the enemy.

Here are some clarifications from the first section of the Directive:

1. Enlisted and non-commissioned officers of prisoners of war should be sent to collection points for transit on active fronts. After checking persons who do not cause suspicion, they are sent to army and front-line spare parts.

2. Persons who served in the German army and in special. orderly German formations, Vlasovites, policemen and other persons arousing suspicion should be immediately sent to special forces. NKVD camps.

3. The officers who were in captivity are sent to the special camps of the NKVD.

The following subsections of the first section dealt with civilians forced or voluntarily into German territory. Thus, by this Directive, officers who were taken prisoner were automatically equated with policemen and Vlasovites, with all the ensuing consequences for them. Further Directives specified and supplemented this one, but its essence remained unchanged, and the military authorities followed it strictly.

We note two circumstances related to the said Directive. This terrible document appeared before the start of the Yalta Conference in a particularly secret form, but Stalin did not acquaint his allies with it. He understood that, having done this, it was difficult to foresee how the Americans would behave and

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the British, whether they will sign the "Agreement for the Return of Prisoners of War". The directive on the expulsion of entire peoples from their native places, started by the Sta-

Lin in 1944-1945.

Hundreds of thousands of Soviet people were killed, driven from their homes, sent to camps. And this was done after the victorious war. Moreover, all these bloody, disenfranchised and illegal deeds were carried out secretly, without any mercy. Finally, this Directive became the guideline for all organs of the CGL, from top to bottom, to exercise control over the entire civilian population of the country.

The humbled population asked menacingly: "How dare you live without her? How dare you plow and sow? How dare you feed a goat and stock up for the winter? How dare you breathe the same air with those with whom it, the Soviet government, is at war? Who handed over fat to the Germans, fed the fascist invaders? Who traded at the market here? Who opened the shoe shop? Who got icons from attics, repaired churches, sewed cassocks for priests, bred religious dope? Who served in city governments, grovelled before the occupiers, defended the fascist rabble? Therefore, without waiting for the return of "native" power, since 1943, many Russian people went to the West. |

The German authorities did not keep orderly statistics of refugees during the occupation. It is known, for example, that only in the period from January 25 to February 20, 1943, during the retreat of the Germans from the Kuban and the North Caucasus, 312 thousand people were evacuated to Ukraine, including the elderly, women and children. Together with their families, hundreds of representatives of the technical and humanitarian intelligentsia left the occupied territories.

In the years 1944-1947, in the course of repatriation, the Western Allies, by force, handed over to the USSR more than 2.2 million Soviet citizens who served in the "Eastern" volunteer formations of the German armed forces (this number also includes family members of the last

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them and refugees grouped around one or another volunteer unit). Of these, upon arrival in the USSR:

- 20% were shot or sentenced to 25 years in the camps, which, in fact, was tantamount to a death sentence;
- 15-20% were sentenced to 5-10 years in camps;
- 10% - exiled to remote areas of Siberia for at least 6 years:
- 15% sent for forced labor in the Donbass, Kuzbass and other areas destroyed by the Germans. They were allowed to return home only after the expiration of the period of work;

- 15-20% were allowed to return to their native places.

As you can see, these data do not add up to 100%, probably the missing 15-20% are people who managed to "hide" already in the USSR, died on the road or fled.

These data also do not give an idea of what fate befell each of the categories of "Eastern" volunteers. It should be recognized that the Soviet justice treated the fighters and commanders of the ROA most abruptly.

, According to N. Krasnov, the great-nephew of the ataman, officers from General Vlasov's entourage and staff officers were immediately separated from the rest, and other Vlasovites were immediately taken to a special camp near Kemerovo, where the Soviet competent authorities began filtering them to identify all officers, up to commanders of batteries and platoons. Particular attention was paid to the propaganda officers who had been trained at the courses in Dabendorf. Most of them were sentenced by the tribunals of the East Siberian Military District to be shot, while the rest received terms in camps, most often for 25 years (mainly in Kolyma, Vorkuta and Dzhezkazgan). Something similar awaited the soldiers and

Zemskov VN Repatriation of Soviet citizens and their further fate.

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officers of the Cossack and other formations. Over time, by 1946, the Soviet authorities ceased to distinguish between separate categories of "Eastern" volunteers, and according to all official and unofficial documents, they began to pass as "Vlasovites".

578,616 repatriates were sent to various branches of industry (coal, railways, construction, etc.) as part of worker battalions. However, they were disbanded very soon. But the workers from their composition were attached to certain enterprises and to the place of residence. The workers were persecuted for escaping. And yet the number of escapes was great. People tried to return to their native places.

Years and years passed before the Soviet state restored the legality of the surviving displaced persons and prisoners of war. For the first time, historical justice was restored in 1956, that is, almost 11 years later, years after the end of the war and after the XX Congress of the CPSU. We are talking about the Decree of the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers: "On the elimination of the consequences of gross violations of the law in relation to former prisoners of war -

nyh and members of their families". However, it took almost 40 years before this legitimacy was truly restored. Here it is impossible not to note the merit of BN Yeltsin. He issued a Decree "On the restoration of the legal rights of Russian citizens - former Soviet prisoners of war and civilians repatriated during the Great Patriotic War."

A significant number of displaced persons and prisoners of war who did not want to return to the Soviet Union tried in various ways to avoid repatriation. Most of the Russians, who found themselves on the rights of displaced persons, sought to leave as far as possible from Europe, across the ocean. But this opportunity did not open up immediately, but only as the Allied relations with the Soviet Union worsened during the Cold War.

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The negative attitude towards the Russians was then not only in the United States. For example, at first, Argentina also ordered the consuls not to visa passports to people of Slavic origin, and especially Russians. It was only beginning in 1949-1950, especially after the passage of a favorable law on immigration to the United States, that the camps for displaced persons began to dissolve.

Public organizations of Russian émigrés, created before the outbreak of World War II, received state subsidies. For example, the Tolstoy Foundation, founded in 1939 in the United States with the participation of B.A. Bakhmetyev, was financed by the Americans. Thanks to the help of these organizations, many Russians managed to save their lives. The Vlasovites were especially grateful to the Tolstoy Fund, since many states, including the United States, forbade their resettlement in their countries.

Unlike many Russian organizations created with foreign funding, but whose goal was to save their compatriots, the state authorities of Western countries pursued primarily economic and political goals. Moreover, the economic ones - to get cheap labor - prevailed over others.

One way or another, but from May 1947 to 1952, 213,388 people were deported from the western zones of Germany and Austria to the countries of Europe and the American continent, of which 38,708 went to Canada.

A more accurate figure was probably obtained by a commission headed by D.A. Volkogonov. She determined - 504 thousand people who did not return from the camps, refugees. But it is obviously not final either. This number does not include those who escaped the camps and thus were not included in the statistics of displaced persons. This category was many

numerical. There were about 300 thousand people outside the camps

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lovek. Thus, the number of those who did not return to the Soviet Union differs significantly from official Soviet statistics and ranges from approximately 500,000 to 800,000 people.

In 1955, the new regime tried to repeat Stalin's ploy and again lure thousands of emigrants into its nets. This time the action was held under the slogan "Motherland is calling you." As we can see, the propagandists did not come up with anything new. The campaign was led not by the KGB or SMERSH, as was the case before, but by the Committee "For the Return to the Motherland" organized in Moscow under the command of KGB General Mikhailov.

One day the committee asked the Polygraphic Institute, where I worked as a teacher, to send them an "intelligent" editor. A good editor was sent to them, but the woman survived only two months in that institution, although they paid decently. Once I met her on the street and asked why she left. She answered like this: "I have never seen a bigger lie in my life. Couldn't stand it!"

Speaking about the return from the second emigration in the 50s to the Soviet Union, this is what should be said. They were not put in camps, they were not driven to construction sites, but they were not very favored with any special benefits either. I was told by a Lenin Gradets who was allowed to go home that he lived for three years in a dugout outside the city before he got a residence permit and received a six-meter room in a communal apartment in the city of Leningrad.

How the widely publicized campaign ended is well known. Almost everyone who could, returned back to those countries where they had previously settled, honestly worked, found a normal human life.

In order to understand more fully what the so-called filtration camps (at their best) were like in the early days of their organization in Germany, I will tell you about one of them, where I happened to visit once.

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"Pioneer Camp"

Fifteen to twenty kilometers from the place where the artillery brigade was located, there is a women's filtration camp. Three officers got on motorcycles and quickly got to the place. No fence, no guardhouses, no barbed wire, no sentries. Miracles! Hear-

we are only girlish voices and girlish songs. Streets with Russian names. Neat German houses with gardens. "Returnees" live in them.

At the beginning of each street there is a so-called checkpoint. A boardwalk with dining tables was built nearby. Food is brought here. Women do everything themselves: cook, clean. Once a day check. The camp has a sanitary unit, a bathhouse. They issue certificates of medical examination, because without them, travel to the homeland is closed. Sometimes a patriotic film is shown.

When darkness falls, Italian prisoners of war - their camp next door - sing or whistle serenades. Someone, laughing, remarked: "Directly a pioneer camp." The soldier on duty told us a lot. Note that he is unarmed.

We asked him: "What is possible and what is not?" The soldier proudly replied: "Everything is possible for the victors." But he advised: "Before the gentlemen introduce themselves to the young ladies, you should visit the authorities."

SMERSH officers received us cordially. They gladly spoke about their institution, where there are about five thousand "returners". They warned us not to come without cognac next time.

We tried to find out something. For example, why is the camp not guarded? How is it with feeding? How long are women kept in the camp before they are sent home? This is what the mustachioed colonel kindly said: "Our contingent," he said, "must gain complete confidence that the camp is already part of the Motherland! Where to run and why? For everyone up to

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horns of the KIP, in all villages and forests there are military units. The Americans won't take them back."

Either the godfather was cunning, or he was lying, or he didn't know! Soon all the "Pioneer camps" took on a different look, in the Soviet way. While we were talking, it was time for lunch. The women walked with bowlers.

I shuddered a little from surprise: I noticed Vera, the woman who was the first to tell me about the end of the war. A emaciated face, dull, expressionless eyes, dressed terribly: a worn dress, shoes from the garbage heap, nothing else. We met after lunch. The conversation was unhappy. Here's what I found out. After we parted in the Sudetenland, the next day the new authorities expelled her from the house where she lived, not allowing her to take anything with her except food. Where to go?

The Czechs did not particularly stand on ceremony with the Sudeten Germans -

mi. After the war, they sent them out of the country - about two million.

"I went to" my own "and told everything about myself," cleansed my soul", and there - come what may," said Vera. She told her personal story. In Balaklava (Crimea), where the Germans set up a submarine base, she worked in the officers' canteen as a dishwasher: this saved her mother from hunger. Somehow a German sailor officer noticed her. Whether began to meet. He soon went to sea. They brought him with a burnt, half-dead face. Vera helped the submariner get out. Then a special hospital where he was treated. Disguised as a nurse, the wounded officer took her with him to Czechoslovakia. He was sent there after his recovery. The guy did not return from the Atlantic. Vera began looking for work. She got a job as a maid for a wealthy Sudeten German who had fled with the retreating German army.

I listened attentively to Vera's story. She could hardly hold back her tears. When I was around, I felt a certain awkwardness all the time. I forced myself to find at least a few warm words of consolation for Vera. They didn't give. The whole meeting seemed somehow unnatural. Yet on

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The next day I came to the camp to see Vera off. He brought her a quilted jacket, stockings and new shoes. Saying goodbye to me, she told about the fate of her neighbor friend from Ukraine, who hanged herself. I could not, poor thing, come to terms with the buried dream of living in the West.

Traditionally, the entire camp gathered to send off the next batch of women to their homeland. The spectacle burned into my memory. It's hard to describe it. You just had to see. You had to have a deep sense of compassion to understand what was happening. Many of us, officers, during the years of the war, to be honest, forgot such a word. Women were built in a slender column. With little things, with homemade bags over their shoulders, the formation moved to the gates of the camp. It's true, I didn't notice sadness in many eyes. The camp officers encouraged the women, trying to dispel the slightest doubts in their souls. "Girls, everything will be fine!" They said with a sly smile. And the "girls" believed them, or rather, tried to believe. A familiar song rang in the air: "Wide is my native land..."

For the first time that day, I thought about the vile cunning of power. Neither I nor my comrades uttered a word. At that time, we still did not know much about how the Motherland would meet the mother of her daughters, whom the victory of the Soviet Army had pulled out of their Nazi hell. There were people like Vera, "branded", as they were called for their connection with the Germans, in the camp
A little.

Meeting with the Motherland

As they approached the state border, the eyes of the "returned" dimmed, lost their brilliance, and cold fear filled their souls... They did not ask for anything, did not demand anything from the government, which was unable to protect them, save them from the enemy... Niv 41 th, neither in the 42nd, nor in the 43rd, nor in the 44th. For four and a half years, the Red Army liberated their native land from the invaders ...

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As soon as the train reached the state border, it was transferred to a siding. Here he was surrounded by soldiers with dogs. After counting the arrivals, everyone was lined up. Those who met them tore the wax seals from the secret packages delivered with the train. The command was immediately sounded: to whom - to the right, to whom - to the left, and to whom - to remain in place. Some of them were taken under escort into freight wagons with barred windows prepared on other tracks. They sent that echelon by courier speed to their destination. Others were pushed into another freight train, and it would take him a long, long time to go through his native country.

Both the "branded" and "unbranded" would not have guessed then that most of them were sent to the newly created agricultural camps in the Gulag system, which, as the authorities planned, were supposed to become a solid food base for the entire camp system in the country.

Thirty years after the war, a housemate where I lived in Moscow, a retired colonel, told me about those camps. In the postwar years, he headed the agricultural department of the Gulag. In the past, an agronomist, you are a graduate of the Agricultural Academy. K. Timiryazev

pharynx.

Camps, and there were more than a hundred of them, annually provided up to forty percent of "food" for the Gulag. The main trick of the conceived idea was as follows. The camps handed over everything cultivated by the hands of the prisoners to the local authorities. The government, on the other hand, made up for everything given to the GULAG, down to the last beetroot or carrot. Of course, in these camps the women had an easier life than in the logging sites, and yet they remained "prisoners" and "sculpted" them a dozen, no less. For what such misdeeds did they get such a heavy share? For treason, service in the German army or submission to the master race? Try to refuse. For the fact that they were sleeping, far from all, with German officers or soldiers,

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Why were they called contemptuously "litters"? Maybe because they, risking their lives, helped captured Red Army soldiers or foreign soldiers? However, let's ask ourselves - didn't we, Soviet officers, political workers, soldiers, communists and non-party people, sleep with Germans, Poles, Rumanians? Didn't the Soviet Army, having entered German soil and liberated the occupied European countries from Nazism, rape women, rob their own and others, and loot? And how!

The authorities for a long time turned a blind eye to the low deeds of the "winners", most often tried not to notice them. They continued on until the thunder roared. A few examples. One of the squadrons of the guards cavalry corps of General Oslikovsky in Hungary is located - wow! — in a convent. Cossacks raped nuns in a wild drunken orgy. The whole army soon learned about this event from the headquarters ... Were the officers ashamed? Nothing like that ... They laughed, joked. Wow, such good luck to the peasants - nuns!

Let's go back to the fate of the "returnees"... They dreamed of only one thing - to return to their home, to cling to their mother's breast. After what they have gone through, drunk to the dregs, they should have been put into carriages, and not into calf carriages, and taken to their homeland, greeted with music, a guard of honor, as they do in a democratic society.

What is it, brother, what are you talking about, look what you wanted!

About the cult of Victory

Our Civil War happened much later than the American one, and yet the state does not remember it, preferring less controversial historical events.

tiya.

American Veterans Day was born out of the United States' participation in World War I. In 1919-1953

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it was called the Day of Reconciliation. For several decades, the Department of Veterans Affairs (in America, unlike Russia, there is such a department) has a special committee that organizes commemorative holiday celebrations. But the Victory Day in World War II somehow did not find a place either in the state ideology of the United States or in the mass consciousness. According to experts, the reason for this was a variety of different factors.

"The attitude of Americans to the Second World War is initially contradictory and cannot be compared with the attitude

existing in Europe, and especially in Russia, - Nikolai Zlobin, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Director of Russian Programs at the Washington Center for Defense Information, told the Russian magazine Itogi. - Let's remember how long the United States could not decide for itself the question of whether to enter the war or not. For them, it was another European showdown; the not very successful experience of participation in the First World War, which gave rise to post-war American isolationism, was fresh in their memory. It took a lot of effort for the Roosevelt administration to prove to Congress and the country the need for such participation. The decisive factor was not Hitler's attack on the USSR, but the most difficult situation and the possible collapse of Great Britain. In addition, America soon went through two more wars - in Korea and Vietnam. As a historian, I dare say: each subsequent war crowds out the memories of the previous one. It was Korea and Vietnam that remained in public memory as American wars. Their tragedies, their heroes, their victims, and the political problems they gave rise to are closer to American society than anything before. In the same way, for us, the Great Patriotic War, as it were, closed the Civil War.

And, perhaps, the most important political nuance. For America and other Western democracies, the outcome of the war was not, in fact, entirely comforting. The successes of the Soviet Army and the heroism of its soldiers contributed to the race

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the spread of communist regimes in Europe and Asia, the establishment of communism as the main force opposing the West. England, one of the victorious powers, lost 24% of the territory of the former British Empire as a result of the war and never regained its pre-war influence. And how to regard the post-war division of the world and the beginning of the Cold War? From the point of view of the West, these facts are difficult to classify as positive changes.

I must say that since then history textbooks in the United States have not changed much. Separate pleasant exceptions to the general picture, unfortunately, do not correct. For example, in the textbook for high school students A Look Through the Ages, written by a solid team of authors, on page 596 one can read the following: "Facing face to face with two thirds of the Nazi armed forces, the Soviet Union not only survived, but throughout the entire European war he defeated Germany in the Battle of Stalingrad (August 1942-January 1943), destroying an entire German army - more than 300,000 people. Everything in this phrase is more or less true and even objective. But the fact is that in this voluminous volume he is completely alone and lost among the many pages that have been introduced to cover other topics of the war. In particular, the internment of Japanese Americans, participation in the Indian war, Hispanic Americans and

ten times more Jews were given places than the Eastern Front. After this, it is difficult to be surprised, at best, by the neutral attitude of the Americans towards the Victory Day. David Sutger gave The Bottom Line this explanation for this phenomenon: "America did not need such a significant event to establish the legitimacy of its existence as a nation. For the Soviet Union, that victory played a huge role in legitimizing itself on the world stage. Victory Day began to serve the purposes of propaganda, demonstration not only to the population within the country, but also to the rest

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world legitimacy of the Soviet regime, which at that time outside the USSR were in great doubt. In my understanding, if in America this day is given too little attention, then in the former USSR, and now in Russia - too much, to the detriment of many things, for example, the recognition of the full truth that the communist regime was criminal.

"The rams march in a row, the drums beat, the sheep themselves tear the skin on them."

Bertolt Brecht

Chapter Fourteen

SIMPLE AND THE DEVIL'

Simpletons

A simpleton is a simpleton. Whether it is a soldier or even a marshal, if it happens in a war to fall on the hook of individuals or Smershevites. Just two examples following what has been said. In the next company, two soldiers are talking. One says: "We are fighting, we are fighting, but it's all to no avail." Another replies: "With such a gruel that we slurp, one way out is to go to the Germans to drink tea." Both soldiers were accused of treason, and the result is always known in such cases - a tribunal.

And here is the second example. After the end of the war, SMERSH chief Viktor Abakumov flew to Berlin. And immediately he began to arrest officers and generals from the entourage of Zhukov, who at that time was the Commander-in-Chief of the Soviet administration in the Soviet occupation zone of Germany. Marshal was informed about this, and he immediately called Abakumov. Meeting them was not easy. Zhukov demanded that the head of SMERSH immediately release all those arrested and in twenty-four hours

leave Berlin, which was done. But for his noble deed, the simpleton Zhukov paid a high price.

! Who is the devil? There are many references to the devil in the Bible. The word "devil" refers to one who lies maliciously, an enemy or adversary. The same is "Satan".

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In 1946, Abakumov helped Stalin crack down on the march scrap.

I remember that special departments at the front, both officers and soldiers, tried to bypass, forget about their existence, but, alas, this "institution" did not allow the front-line soldiers to live in peace and often reminded them of themselves.

If the commissars urged us, front-line soldiers, to join the party and lead people into battle, then the special officers, as a rule, urged a soldier or officer to sell his soul to the devil, referred to the desire not to allow enemies to undermine the power of our country. And these words worked, perhaps more powerfully than patriotic words about serving the Fatherland, about repeating Stalin's words: "The enemy will be defeated, victory will be ours!"

The whole front-line life of the special department, as a rule, passed in secret from all divisions of the division. The head of the special department, and then SMERSH, was subordinate to his superiors, but sometimes there was an unspoken agreement between the division commander and the special department. For example, in the 331st division, where I served - I know about it - the general asked the officers not to be touched without his permission.

In public, special officers-officers, as a rule, "went out to the people" three times. Usually, as soon as the troops captured a settlement, they followed them. And the first thing they considered was: it was necessary to have time to arrest the burgomasters, elders, policemen, and various assistants to the Germans, including translators, cooks and waitresses in officer canteens, traitors who betrayed communists and underground members.

The last German detachments left Rzhev in the early morning of March 3, followed by the advanced units of the 215th division. At the same time, a task force of ten special officers entered the city. It was headed by the senior authorized officer of the special department of the NKVD of the 30th Army P.I. Konovalov. The group was supposed to penetrate into Rzhev and block the house of the city head V.Ya.Kuzmin.

Art. lieutenant of state security A.Yu. Sinitsyn climbed the balcony of a two-story building at the

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in the streets Kommunisticheskaya and Kalinin (the old names of the streets). He put up a red flag. The second flag was friendly on the bell tower of the Church of the Intercession.

General Segal, in his memoirs, tells how during the fighting in Ukraine, while driving his armored personnel carrier, he met such pictures: "... As soon as the advancing troops liberated the settlement, officers of the military tribunals followed them. Through local residents, they searched for traitors to the Motherland, mainly policemen and elders, prosecuted them and sentenced them to death."

Once he was present at the execution. This is how he tells about it: "A lot of people gathered ... Two cars drove up: one closed, the other open. Two traitors, the policemen, were taken out from behind the closed one, moved them into the body of an open car, and drove it under the crossbar of the gallows. The chairman of the tribunal read out the verdict and, with his assistant, put nooses around their necks. The driver pulled the car. One of the condemned had a broken rope. He fell to the ground. Soldiers standing nearby started kicking him. Soon he was ordered to hang again.

The reason for the second appearance of special officers was the arrival of the next replenishment in the division. They came to our 673rd Rifle Regiment and snatched soldiers out of line, taking them away from people's eyes. And there they were "recruited" as informers. Everything was discussed quickly, and God forbid to utter the word "traitor." The whole conversation between the special officer and the soldier consisted of something like this dialogue:

1. We serve one cause - Victory over the enemy. But there are people among us who think differently, and their mood is defeatist. You must identify them, which means strengthening the power of our army.

2. Excuse me, what can I do?

'Ladytin I. 3., SmirkoN. I. At the Rzhev border. Rzhev, 1958, pp. 120-123.

2SegalF. School of courage and nobility. Ed. 2nd, supplemented. Riga, 2002, pp. 82-83. S. 43.

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Someone immediately agreed, and someone, like a flint stone, was silent, sighed heavily and tried to find arguments against recruitment, which occupied an important place, I would say paramount, in the work of the special department. After all, the special officers were required by the authorities to have their own informant in each department, and this goes to the battalion at least

30 assistants. Difficulties constantly arose here - after each battle, half, or even less, of the original composition of informants remained. And the "poor things" -special officers had to engage in recruitment again and again. There was still a higher category of assistants - "agents". This brethren carried out the instructions directly coming from the Chekists. They set surveillance for a certain person. Unfortunately, it happened that both agents and informers ran away to the Germans and told us by radio how they were recruited into the NKVD and what was demanded of them. Shameful stories, but everyone was silent about them.

They also "talked" to me confidentially, but, fortunately, I fought back:

"Understand me, I'm the leader of the regiment's youth, and if some kind of blunder comes out, mine or yours, it's the end of me, or rather, my authority. I will lose all trust of the young soldiers. And they won't follow me into battle.

In response, the major chuckled and said:

"Sneaky, lieutenant!" But remember, dear friend, it is better to be friends with us than to teach us morality.

Usually three special officers served in each rifle regiment, the special department of the division consisted of 21 officers, including the chief and his deputy, investigators, cipher officer, and commandant. He had a platoon of submachine gunners at his disposal.

The third meeting, although not always, took place personally between the head of the department and the officer, starting from the commander of the battalion.

Somehow, near Rzhev, I picked up a German leaflet from the ground. I read it, laughed, it was painfully primitive and funny, and could not stand it, read it aloud in

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the presence of two officers from the regimental headquarters. Usually we accepted replenishment together and knew each other well.

The next day I was summoned by Colonel Razumovsky, commander of the 673rd regiment. He ordered everyone present at that time to leave the dugout and, asking me to sit down, said quietly:

"How could you have acted so thoughtlessly—they picked up an enemy leaflet and read it aloud. Grow up. This is followed by a tribunal. You are lucky that your familiar officer wrote a report to me, and not to a special department.

Knowing that Colonel Razumovsky served in the Russian army before 1917, I asked him:

— Is it possible to imagine such a situation, Comrade Colonel, in the Russian army?

"Lieutenant," replied the regimental commander, "a special department had not yet been invented at that time." Since they exist, we must be more careful and teach this to the soldiers. I know as a combat officer and for the first time I forgive you, given your youth. "Looks like they parted ways."

In less than two weeks, I was called to the special department of the division. I was met by a tall man - they say about people like him: "Seven pounds of fat and shit." Sitting me in front of him, he glared at me for a long time, trying to get me to talk.

"What is it, you teach soldiers to go over to the Germans: they feed defectors with chocolate and Dutch cheese, let them go to the village to their women?

— Excuse me, comrade major, I will answer.

— Well, speak, speak, lieutenant.

"You read the Krasnaya Zvezda newspaper, don't you?" There was printed a large article about counter-propaganda.

- Well, I read it, only you don't speak your teeth to me!

- Yes, this is an article by Ilya Ehrenburg, and I acted according to my conscience! He urged the soldiers not to trust the defectors.

- You know, there is an old Russian proverb: "The eagle does not fly catches."

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— Comrade Major, why are you comparing me to a fly? I'm an officer of the Red Army!

- He was, but swam away.

— How to understand you, comrade major?

- And so that you acted like a real enemy propagandist.

- I do not understand you?

- Now you will understand. Here I will read to you what your own soldiers write about you.

The special officer put on his glasses and read out a denunciation against me: they say, in a conversation with the soldiers, I repeated what the deserters from the opposite bank told the next day after the escape.

"Comrade major, you have a worthless assistant, you dunce. I repeated the words of the bastards, but called on the soldiers—they didn't believe. That's what the scammer didn't write about, or, as you call it, the "informant."

"Let's check," the major completed the conversation with me, "we'll check!"

I came out of the special department all wet, with a heavy feeling that I should be careful. "It turns out that ears are around you. The slightest mistake, and you will fall into the devil's paws. I have already heard one of the officers call the special department that." Here I saw the real devil himself in human form. Where did it come from on my head?

From that memorable day until the end of the war, like many of my comrades, I tried to stay away from the special department, and in 1943 from SMERSH. However, twice more fell on their hook, and thank God, I managed to break loose. I told about these stories in the published books "Rzhevskaya meat grinder" (Moscow) and "Through the whirlpool" (USA).

The front teaches faster than any of the best schools, it teaches not only to fight, to suppress the fear of death, it teaches hatred for the enemy and anger towards foolish commanders, it teaches, despite all sorts of meanness. It is no coincidence that one year at the front was counted as three years of labor activity in peacetime.

Both soldiers and officers very soon figured out "who

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there is someone." At the forefront are a handful of fighters, and behind them the chiefs are innumerable.

A handful of soldiers loomed special penal companies, officers - assault and penal battalions, and further - barrage detachments. The collection contains in the appendices data on fines for the years of the war. As the figures show, 29 assault and 63 penal battalions were founded, as well as 1102 separate penal companies and 6 penal platoons. In total, 727,910 people served in them. This is 5-6 times more than in penal German troops. But not a word is said about the losses in the collection! Meanwhile, it is known that up to about 50-70% of the officers and soldiers of the penalists died.

I, participating in the battles for the liberation of Minsk, saw how penalty boxes were thrown into battle against seven lines of German defense. They broke through the enemy defenses and opened the way for the tank armies.

It should be noted that special departments, and then (since April 1943) SMERSH, controlled the penal units. In each penal battalion or in a special penal company there was a special officer.

The front teaches honesty and courage, understanding what bravery and courage, as well as betrayal, represent. Every year the power of the Red Army grew, the soldiers gained combat experience, the officers grew wiser and matured, the generals learned not only to defend themselves, but also to attack. Air divisions and armies, mechanized corps, artillery divisions and tank armies appeared. The closer we approached victory, the more each combat officer and Red Army soldier felt their stranglehold.

Whatever hero you are, how many times you are wounded, how many awards you have received, you have no protection from the devil. I don't

'Nykhalov I., Pylytsin A., Vasilchenko A. and etc. Fine baht on both sides of the front. Military history collection. M.: Yauza, Eksmo, 2007. The collection contains statistics of all assault and penal battalions, as well as individual penal companies and platoons, the timing of their formation.

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he remembered not a single case when the soldiers defended their comrade who fell into his paws. There is no need to talk about officers. In such situations, they tried not to interfere in the events taking place before their eyes. So, in fact, they gave their soldiers to the special officers for slaughter.

How strange - the victory blinded us, front-line soldiers. Many of us have turned out to be simpletons again. We have forgotten about secret surveillance of each of us, about denunciation. How many honest front-line soldiers died, forgetting all this vileness with which Stalin's guardsmen surrounded us.

In order for the reader to better understand what the "diaboliad" was like - the life of the army is constantly under a cap, from a soldier to a general - I will acquaint him with the memoirs of the front-line soldiers who fought near Rzhev.

Former, still alive, special officers, Smershevites, not to mention modern FSB officers, are yelling with might and main that they are being slinged in the media. Meanwhile, as they say, both special departments and SMERSH played a huge role in achieving the common Victory. Is it so? As a rule, defenders of the security officers refer to the fact that critics, as a rule, do not know the true truth, do not rely on documents, on the memoirs of veterans. Well, we decided to help the "Special Smershevists" to acquaint the reader with the memories of soldiers and officers about them during the war.

How can a person serve such a godless cause, denounce each other, raise a hand against a person, live without compassion. They didn't talk about it aloud, but each of us, front-line soldiers, reasoned just like that. With hate

attacked informers, tried to get rid of them by any means, up to and including murder.

Boris Polyakov recalls: "... Once I went to the headquarters of the regiment, where the head of the special department asked me to come to him to draw up a diagram for the report. I quickly completed the task, and in the meantime the special officer became interested in my fountain pen (arranged on the principle of a washstand), which I found in a German staff bus, beaten off

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near the city of Bely back in February 1942. Turning the pen in his hands, the special officer said that he was confiscating the pen as trophy property. Such frank arrogance blew me up, and in an indignant tone I expressed everything that I thought about his behavior ... Having expressed everything that I was boiling, I got up and left, not failing to slam the door behind me. The echo of this collision did not follow immediately.

One day I was returning from work with my platoon - they were walking along a narrow forest path, stretching out in a chain. I went to the penitents. Passing through a small clearing, the guide picked up a German leaflet, read it as he walked, and handed it to the person following him. So, along the chain, the leaflet reached me. I read it, tore it up and threw it on the ground, immediately forgetting about it. You never know leaflets, both German and ours, were scattered in the forest near the front.

I had to remember it the next day. In the evening, my platoon commander Glashchev called me back into the depths of the forest and showed me a draft of the report, which he found under the rams of the fighter Tuchin. In it, yesterday's case with the leaflet was described in detail and, in general, truthfully, but without any comments ... Tuchin was a teacher with a higher education. Earlier, Tuchin, while on duty, fell asleep. And the time is military, and even at the forefront. Here he fell under three bunals. He was threatened with a penal company. For some reason, his fate was more favorable. No one knew about this... True, I heard rumors that he had been recruited by the Ossi by division into informants and sent to our platoon. Presumably to spy on me.

From Tuchin's report it was possible to inflate the "case". It was forbidden to read German leaflets, although before using them for rolling and smoking, the soldiers read them anyway.

There were no consequences for me from this report. It was only after the war that I learned that the case had been extinguished on the initiative of A.N. Sharebin, the commissar of the regiment. He was the unshakable authority not only of our regiment, but of the entire division.

... Gakov was the general system of pressure over

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all of us - soldiers of the war. Many post-war years of reflection often led me to the thought that I should consider myself lucky, that not only did the enemy bullet pass me by, but fate also saved me from the octopus of the totalitarian regime, under which we were all mixed up in that terrible game.

(Boris Polyakov, "When all the people were suspected." - It was at the Rzhev-Vyazemsky bridgehead. Book two. Collection of memoirs. S. 90-93.)

LJ "

Memoirs of Captain Ivan Meskovtsev, a veteran (215 p.) to the diary of Ivan Maslennikov: "Officers and soldiers knew that it was impossible to keep any records (diaries). Special departments zealously monitored that no one kept diaries. To break this rule meant to end up in SMERSH, and this did not bode well, because no one returned from there. Yes, and the word itself was pronounced with fear and mystery... Those who got there were looked at as if they were condemned." (Ivan Maslennikov, "Lines written by the war." - It was at the Rzhev-Vyazemsky bridgehead. Book Two. Rzhev, 2000. S. 25-50.)

Memoirs of artilleryman P.A.Maikhin: "... Somehow the Germans spotted our battery, and the 87th bomber took it, went along the front of the battery and dropped one bomb on each of the four guns ... The soldiers, like frightened sparrows rushed headlong into shelters, but not a single bomb exploded, they fell directly under the pigeons. "This is an ace! Clean work! Four bombs and each one hits the target! Sergeant Khokhlov couldn't help but be surprised. So thought each of us, but all were silent. In those days it was dangerous to say such a thing aloud, so you could end up in a special department, where our brother was not especially treated with ceremony. Better to die in battle than to deal with SMERSH...

revenue:
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But none of them exploded! - deliberately belittled the dignity of the German pilot.

- What if they exploded? - immediately said several people who did not shake off their recent fears and lost all caution about what can and cannot be said.

"Nothing would be left of us," echoed the same short-sighted ones.

"And there would be no one to bury," they continued.

Then crews from other guns came running ... They were glad that they miraculously survived.

- It's a shame for the Germans how much work they put in, how skillfully they worked, and everything was in vain.

- And you cry, cheer for them ...

So why didn't the bombs go off? I interrupt dangerous conversations. This must be reported.

The Lord saved us! said the elderly Trofimov with conviction, and crossed himself...

"Lord or not, but that all four did not explode, this has never happened before," I say.

"The anti-fascists are working," Romashov said with conviction.

Perhaps he reported in his political reports on all the conversations in the battery.

An unusual event in the war, a small scene with a story about human feelings, connected literally with a magical salvation from death, but it highlights the situation of soldiers at the front so clearly. "Better to die than fall into the hands of a special department!" (P.A. Mikhin, former platoon commander of the 1028th artillery regiment of the 32nd rifle division).

And one more memory of P.A. Mikhin. A story about the tragic fate of Volkov, a brave intelligence officer, commander of a control platoon in a battery: "... With her support, the company attacked the enemy and occupied the German trench, but then was forced to retreat 200 meters back. At that moment, communication was interrupted, and Volkov could not organize support for the company by battery fire. He, with his scout and signaller, was cut off from his own. They hid in

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empty German dugout to sit out until dark. The Germans found them. A battle ensued... The scout was killed, and Volkov was wounded in the arm... Taking advantage of the darkness, Volkov and the signaller got out of the dugout and made their way to their own... We greeted them like heroes. But the special lieutenant arrived. He considered Volkov a traitor who had been behind enemy lines. Therefore, he ordered to dig two "wells" in the location of the battery, and place Volkov and a signaller there under guard. We were forbidden to communicate with them.

The interrogation lasted all day, and in the evening, under escort, Volkov was sent to a special department. I still remember the pained smile on Volkov's whitened face. I remember

how bitterly his face contorted and tears welled up in his eyes. He could hardly keep from bursting into tears (yesterday's schoolboy). Such an insult was caused to him by his own. We felt sorry for Volkov, but we could not help him then... Until the end of the war, I myself three times got into tragic situations, like Volkov, but I was lucky. Communication was restored each time, and I, driving away the Germans, went back to my observation post. But in those terrible moments I experienced the same fears and worries as Volkov, when his own retreated, the Germans were running past you, and you were lying without contact, pressed to the ground, pretended to be dead and you were afraid not of death, but of captivity and what they would think about you, your bosses and special officers ... "("The Battle of Rzhev. The Battle for Polunino "Collection of articles and materials. Publishing House" Russian Province ". Tver, 2001. S. 149-157. They attacked and died. Memoirs written in 1993)

All of us, soldiers and officers, were in the position of Volkov, when special officers "sculpted" traitors from heroes. They shot them, beat them, sent them to special penal companies ... Approximately the same test happened to me near Smolensk, but on the orders of the battalion commander, during the end and offensive, along with the remnants of the company, I left the German trenches.

Soldier Burlakov remembers: "... The next day, after the liberation of Rzhev, we found scattered

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sledge flyers. The Germans released them as party card covers. The phrase sunk into my memory: "Bolshevism is not a theory, not a doctrine, but an organized crime." The meaning of these words was incomprehensible and alien to me... Our commissars carried out explanatory work with us, and special departments zealously saw to it that these leaflets were confiscated and destroyed. Yes, in fact, the soldiers were not up to these German pieces of paper. We had to fight.

Only a few decades later, I began to think about the meaning of these leaflets, about why we entered the war poorly armed and poorly prepared, and what blood it cost us ... All this was clearly expressed in the first years of the war on Rzhev land ' .

Memoirs of V.F. Khodosyuk, machine gunner, 404th joint venture, 215th participant in the assault on Rzhev: "Our commander was a good guy - tall, slender and kind, which cannot be said about the political instructor - small in stature, illiterate and angry. He took a dislike to me because I constantly pestered him with all sorts of questions, to which he did not like to answer and sometimes could not. For example, why can't you read non-German leaflets? After all, we still read them. The Germans carried on extensive propaganda. Even behind the front line, they scattered their leaflets - red, white, blue. The meaning in them was the same - go over to our side, the Red Army is defeated ... And at the bottom of the black leaflet

a line separates the corner where it was written: "Tear off and save the pass. You'll be fed and put to work." For well-known reasons, we could not speak frankly ... "(Essay" My fiery memory ". P. 99-107.)

P. Mikhin recalls: "A shell exploded in the gun barrel," I reported by phone to the command post to the battery commander.

- Are you crazy! - roared the shocked battalion commander. - Do you know what will happen to the barrel?

- It was already - the barrel shattered to the very shield, - bet-

| Burlakov. It was on the Rzhev-Vyazemsky bridgehead. Book one. S. 49

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I roared no less passionately. I had nothing to lose. I had already experienced what had happened and was ready for anything.

When the smoke from the explosion dispersed and I ran to the howitzer, a gun appeared before me without a barrel, without what shoots, which is the same as seeing a man without a head. An unthinkable loss. My heart was cut with a dagger. But suddenly the pain of loss was blocked by a terrible thought: what will happen to me? The pity of loss was replaced by the fear of responsibility. I was dumbfounded and stared with motionless eyes at the empty space where the trunk usually piled up. There was nothing in the place of the steel machine that was many meters thick and the girth of a man. I was brought out of a state of shock by gun crew soldiers. "Comrade lieutenant, we are alive!" they shouted. I woke up. Joy for people blocked the bitterness of loss and fear for one's fate. But I was a little ashamed: first I thought about fate and myself, and only then about people. I remembered. But is it really my fault that we were brought up like that - die yourself, lose people, but first save the gun.

- But how did you survive? .. - I thought to myself: "Together with you, I survived, there were no casualties, maybe they won't be shot, but only sent to the penalty area ..."

Then the following happened. By lunchtime, a lieutenant from a special department arrived on horseback. Together with him - also on horseback - two submachine gunners. Therefore, I was glad that not some old grumpy old man, but my peer, would investigate the incident, but when the guest, without saying hello, casually saluted and quickly announced that he was Lieutenant Konetsky, I became alert.

Where did the gun explode? he asked sternly, addressing no one. His black piercing eyes looked past me. Leaving no hope for a confidential comradely conversation, as if we had not been

Russian students, only he is from the law school, and I am from the pedagogical one. Konetsky was wearing a brand new unrumpled tunic, a crisp belt with a harness, and the lace riding breeches were ironed so that the arrows protruded outward. The narrow tops of chrome boots tightly fitted non-fat

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leg games. And he was accompanied by submachine gunners, as if taken out of candy wrappers - they differed from my firemen, like brand new nails from rusty pieces of iron. But we could see that they weren't dragging howitzers out of the swamp.

First of all, the special lieutenant dispersed the calculation of the third gun thirty meters in different directions from the howitzers and ordered everyone to dig a trench for themselves. This is so that the soldiers do not communicate with each other. While the firefighters were tearing off their "field numbers" under the supervision of machine gunners, Konetsky led me to my dugout and proceeded to interrogation. I was in charge of the battery and therefore for

everything is in the answer.

"Show me your weapon," the special officer asked politely. I gave him my machine gun. Konetsky silently laid it at his feet. Then he asked casually: "Why did the barrel of the gun explode?"

- Most likely, the projectile was faulty, the fuse worked prematurely.

- Or maybe the cover was not removed from the barrel, or dirt accumulated in the barrel? the investigator asked venomously. He cocked his head to one side and opened his mouth in a mockingly playful way.

- The gun is not a dustbin, so that garbage accumulates in it, look at other howitzers, how they are well-groomed. This and Colonel Uryupin can confirm. He just came to us. The case is still folded by the gun.

, - All this can be done later. Or maybe specially decide to take it down? The officer looked at me menacingly. Previously, I had never dealt with the authorities, I was not under investigation, so I did not imagine that it was possible to openly defame like this.

"Today one gun, tomorrow another, you look – and the battery is disabled," the lieutenant continued, ignoring my indignation. How many people were killed or injured in the explosion?

- No harm done! I proudly declared.

- How? Did you hide them on purpose before blowing up the barrel? So, he took pity on the people, so that they would not extradite you. - Konetsky, as if casually, took hold of the belt and transferred the holster with the pistol from behind his back to his stomach.

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- Well, answer me, lieutenant, for what purpose and by whose order did you disable the gun? the special officer demanded sharply. Such treatment confused and frightened me. The case was about to take a serious turn.

Who are your accomplices? To blow up the gun, it was necessary to throw sand into the barrel.

- But where can you find sand in a swamp? - At the request of Konetsky, I tell you once again how it all happened. But the special officer was already demanding a "confession":

"The shell and the barrel were shattered, and you can't prove in any way that they were clean, and the fact that people weren't hurt only aggravates your situation. Confess frankly, and this will ease your lot. Think about it. And I'll interrogate the calculations.

The lieutenant left, taking my machine gun. A submachine gunner loomed in the dugout door. Konetsky interrogated the other battery men for a long time, especially the soldiers of the third gun. When he returned to me in blinds, I could not tell him anything new.

"There is something," he said enigmatically, sitting down opposite me. Confess and name your accomplices.

"I have already said everything. Let's fire off all the remaining shells. Let's check if there are any spoiled ones among them, - before I LOYED.

- Do you want to blow up all the trunks? With my help, carry out the enemy mission! - boomed Konetsky.

"Why would they explode, if the fuses of all the shells are in good order, according to your version, and the guns will be cleaned again under your supervision.

"We will judge you, lieutenant, for the deliberate destruction of a weapon. So come with me to SMERSH.

I knew that they were not returning from SMERSH, and I became scared. You can't prove your innocence there. It is bitter to die a traitor, from your own bullet, better than 6 Germans killed.

The detective got up and walked towards the exit. At that moment, a happy thought dawned on me: the fatal shot of the third gun was the second in a row. If the howitzer had been dirty, it would have exploded on the first shot.

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But that was the second shot! I scream out loud

special officer.

— And what does it matter? He said without turning around.

- No, you listen, I will prove to you that you are wrong, lieutenant! I screamed with all my might. My cry and appeal to "you" outraged the investigator. He came back to put me in my place and glared at me with a grin.

- If the barrel inside was dirty or in a case, then the first shell would explode. But the first shell had a proper fuse, and the shot was normal. Why didn't the second shell explode, when the barrel had already been cleared by the first shot, and the case had been torn off by the pressure of the air? Yes, because he had a faulty fuse! - You

I said.

Konetsky pondered, then his face brightened, he smiled and said:

- Happy you, lieutenant! Could easily grab the first damaged projectile. The gun would have exploded from him, atebe - execution! And now your truth. You are innocent. Thank fate.

At night, the entire batch of suspicious shells from the battery was taken away. (P. Mikhin. "And this happened." Collection of memoirs of veterans of the battle near Rzhev. "It was on the Rzhev-Vyazemsky bridgehead." Rzhev, 2000, pp. 31-35.)

Tatyana Artemovna Motina recalls: "On June 25, 1941, I was already at the assembly point in the city of Nelidovo. Our horse-drawn mobile field hospital No. 2297 was formed there. All our economy was located in wagons. 40 pairs of horses. Soon I learned what the front near Smolensk is. Blood, mutilations and the groans of the wounded, and above you almost without interruption planes with black crosses fly overhead, like kites, smelling blood, howling at their prey. Pieces of human bodies, carts, medical equipment fly into the air. Everyone mixes with the ground... At the end of October, the Germans surrounded us and took us prisoner (near Vyazma), drove us towards Dorogoba

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Ms. Managed to escape. Hungry and exhausted, she ended up with kind people. I was then 21 years old. I was dressed in civilian clothes. And they left, having gathered their strength, set off on their way to their native places ... I thought that I would gain strength and move across the front to my own.

I spent a week with my parents. One evening a neighbor ran up to the evening and said: "Run, Tatyana, the Germans will come for you now. Someone told them." I managed to escape ... In February 1942, I managed to get to my friends with my girlfriend.

Immediately I was called to a special department, where I told everything about my adventures. Then I was sent to a special camp in Podolsk, where there was one officer: from the junior lieutenant of the medical service. The conditions of detention here were very cruel. In practice, it was a prison camp, or, as it was called, a filtration camp, where people were tested and awaited their fate.

It's scary to remember all the labels they put on me. Endless interrogations and many questions "Why? Why wasn't I killed and why was I taken prisoner? How did you escape from captivity? How did you cross the front line? And questions, and then accusations, and unfounded ones at that. In short, they talked to me like a criminal. God forbid anyone be in such a situation.

There were people who were destined to receive long terms of imprisonment. In the camp, people were constantly changing, so many simply disappeared, and we did not know their fate. After long ordeals, they finally announced to me that I was being sent to a penal battalion as an orderly. Many officers from different branches of the military were deprived of their ranks and awards along with me, all dressed in the uniform of privates and sent to the front line. So I ended up in the penal battalion, which was sent to the area of the house from the breath named after Semashko near Rzhev.

... We had to cross the Volga. We were told: "Atone for your guilt with blood and then you will join the general ranks of the defenders of the Motherland." The attack began suddenly, and they advanced rapidly in three echelons. Two echelons made it

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slip to the other side, and the third Germans shot from machine guns. Heart-rending screams, groans and swearing, like multi-storey phrases, were immediately added to the echoes of the battle. It was a fleeting hand-to-hand fight in the German trenches on the other side. The Germans could not withstand the onslaught and retreated. We captured the territory of the rest home and entrenched ourselves in the captured bridgehead.

My task was to provide first aid to the wounded and evacuate them across the Volga. This work had to be done only at night... The fighting was heavy, there were only a few of us left. For three months of fighting, I never took off my padded jacket, let alone wash myself, but looking at myself once in the mirror, I was horrified - I was all gray-haired. All these days, a detachment of guards followed us and propped us up with bullets, which we clearly lacked. Our guys fought bravely and died not because we were propped up by a detachment of barriers, but because everyone was driven by one impulse - to hit for

grabbers...

After the liberation of Rzhev, the miserable remnants of the battalion were sent from the front line to Moscow, where they issued a new uniform,

they returned the ranks, only one step lower, the awards were not returned to anyone ... I was sent to the railway battalion. In November 1945, my service in the army ended ...

But a shadow of suspicion hung over her for a long time. She was repeatedly summoned and warned to be silent, how she ended up in a penal battalion, her spiritual wound was disturbed, the wound of a person condemned without guilt to that fate from which there seemed to be no way out. What was it: the pitiful attempts of the executioners to get out, to justify themselves before the stern voice of the people?

(Leonid Malyshev) "... You'd better cut wood for coffins." Collection of memoirs of veterans of the battles for Rzhev. - It would be on the Rzhev-Vyazemsky bridgehead. Book two. Rzhev, 2000, pp. 86-89.

F.S. Ivanov, a soldier of the separate 149th ski battalion, recalls: "I was slain. Seriously wounded. I am le

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stings bloody and with disfigured limbs, constantly fell into unconsciousness when trying to crawl. They found me in the morning, and in the evening the orderlies picked me up... There were five such seriously wounded people. They took us by car to the city of Velikie Luki. Instead of a road, there was a flooring of logs across, they were called a sunbed. From the wild shaking, I fell into unconsciousness more than once, and when I came to myself, I heard the pleas of the wounded to stop, to give me a little rest. The car rushed in a wild dance without stopping. There seemed to be no end to this execution. Many prayed to God - it would be better to end immediately than such torment.

Already in the hospital, when we were transferred to a stretcher, the driver came up, fell to his knees and said: "Guys, forgive me for Christ's sake! I couldn't stop, I have a strict schedule, if I hadn't returned on time, I would have been shot."

(Ivanov Foka Stanislavovich. "The Last Battle." Collection of memoirs of veterans "It was on the Rzhev-Vyazemsky bridgehead." Book two. Rzhev, 2000. S. 119-122. |

Oh, how little the life of a soldier was worth at the front, no matter who he was: an infantryman, a sapper, an artilleryman, tanks stoma...

A very important issue that cannot be avoided is the understanding of Stalin's order No. 227 of July 28, 1942, which was called "Not a step back!" Which meant, according to society's understanding, that an artilleryman in any situation must remain with a gun, a tanker had no right to abandon the tank, and, if necessary, burn down with him, and there is nothing to say about the infantryman: "No stirring!"

The commanders reasoned differently: it was impossible to retreat without permission. And if it is tactically beneficial or the enemy has bypassed you, what should you do? Some were cunning, but if they came across, a tribunal awaited them.

Soviet propaganda with might and main began to propagate the meaning of sacrifice in the name of Victory, dozens of Matrosovs appeared, including in our 220th rifle division, soldier Ivanov repeated the "feat" of Alexander Mat

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rosov. His name got into the front of the Pravda newspaper, and the entire front in a short time named the names of 300 sailors. In my archive about what I said, there is a song of the tankers, which they called their anthem. I will end the first part of the chapter with it. Chorus.

Love, brothers, love, Love,
brothers, to live.

In the tank brigade

No need to bother...

The first blank hit the tank in the forehead. The driver drove straight into the coffin.

Chorus.

And then the tower cracked. Small fragments hurt me.

Chorus.

The tower with the radio operator are knitting wounds to me, And my car is burning out to the side.

Chorus.

Then they are called to the Special Department.
"Why didn't you burn down with the tank?"

Chorus.

I answer them, sorry, I say. In the next attack, I will definitely burn!

Chorus.

Skull Hunters!

Diaboliad continued throughout the war. As the hostilities continued, it became more and more fierce. With terrible force, like black celestial holes in the sky, and there are no better and worse, it had a detrimental effect on the army spirit. As an example, I will cite

"Skull hunters" - this is what former Soviet soldiers and officers called the Smershevites.

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the conversation I had at the end of the 43rd with the commander of an artillery battery. Here is what the senior lieutenant told me: "I am standing at the gun and praying to God that they kill me as soon as possible. I do not want to see the tragedy and the death of my battery. They will kill me, and there is no one to answer to "What could I object to him?

Especially the events in the army took on a fatal character from the spring of 1943, and more precisely from April 19, when it became known that Stalin had thought up - to create a new body of intimidation: both his own and others. This body was named by our father - the military counterintelligence SMERSH (death to spies) - know ours!

So that no one in the Red Army, behind the front line, in the occupied territory would have the slightest doubt about the ominous name of the new body and its actions, the People's Commissar of Defense put the proven executioner V.S. Abakumov at the head of SMERSH.

By the time of his appointment as head of SMERSH, Abakumov had risen in the NKVD to the position of Beria's deputy.

What was the essence of military counterintelligence? It is not difficult to guess that Stalin created a special body subordinated personally to him, as People's Commissar for Defense, in order to prevent the 41st year from happening again. After the battle of Moscow and the defeat of the Germans at Stalingrad, the war entered a new decisive phase. It is difficult to imagine how the military leaders, and indeed the entire army, will behave. SMERSH was created precisely in order to place the entire army under the reliable control of Stalin. And most importantly, to crack down on those who betrayed him, as he believed, in the first days of the war, to crack down on collaborators who betrayed Soviet power, especially in the Baltic states, Ukraine and Belarus.

A nominee of the 30s, with a two-year education, but a member of the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks, with savage inclinations, he was strong with the strongest fist @ Mi nailed more than one general ...

It is hard to imagine that more than half a million people in the occupied territories of Ukraine, Belarus,

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Baltic republics served in the Wehrmacht, in the SS troops, in the local police.

This "office" was represented in three persons: SMERSH in the army, as part of the People's Commissariat of Defense, and was directly subordinate to People's Commissar Stalin. The second SMERSH was organized in the Navy and was subordinate to the commander of the fleet. And, finally, counterintelligence was organized by the NKVD. All SMERSH officers were equated in ranks with officer ranks in the army, they were dressed in army uniforms. And all the special departments, previously subordinate to the NKVD, came under the jurisdiction of SMERSHAA.

What was the military counterintelligence to do? First of all, ensure universal reliable control over the army. In this case, special attention should have been paid to the military leaders. With this task, as practice has shown, the Smershevites coped brilliantly. Not a single "mutiny on the ship" occurred in the command of the Red Army. Having ended the victorious war, the marshals and generals dutifully went to the posts that the Supreme Command had thought up for them in advance.

As for the war years, from the data of the well-known publicist Leonid Mlechin, published in the Profil magazine, SMERSH arrested 101 generals and admirals during the war years. [2 of them did not survive the investigation and died, 8 were released for lack of corpus delicti. 81 - condemned. Military collegium of the Supreme Court of the USSR or Special meeting-.

To suppress the so-called treacherous actions in the army is, perhaps, the area where special departments were especially zealous (desertion, crossbows, defectors, spreaders of enemy propaganda, etc.).

The year 1943 went down in the history of the war not only with the Battle of Kursk, but also with the intensification of the fierce struggle between SMERSH and the Abwehr - German intelligence and counterintelligence. Scales

` Drobyazko S. World War II, 1939-1945. Eastern volunteers in the Wehrmacht, police and SS. M.: AST. 2000. p.3.

2RIA News. Reference. History of creation and activity of SMERSH 8.20.08.

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secret war waged by German intelligence during the war had no equal in history.

After the collapse of the blitzkrieg between November 1942 and the end of 1943, in order to make up for lost time, the Germans created an unprecedented network of intelligence schools that produced up to 10 thousand agents, saboteurs and terrorists per year. From January 1944 to May 1945, the German military machine, despite the defeats suffered, did not lose the ability to conduct active combat operations. It was in 1944 that a special military body, the Waffen SS Yagda Verband, headed by the terrorist and saboteur O. Skorzeni, was created through the German special services to carry out sabotage and terrorist activities in the rear of the Soviet troops.

In general, more than 130 reconnaissance, sabotage and counterintelligence teams of the SD and the Abwehr operated on the Eastern Front, about 60 schools functioned, preparing agents to be sent to the rear of the Red Army. In the occupied regions of the USSR, four territorial bodies of German intelligence were formed: "Abverstelle-Ostland", "Abverstelle-Ukraine", "Abwehrstelle-South of Ukraine", "Abverstelle-Crimea". They identified Soviet intelligence officers and underground workers, as well as people who were hostile to Nazi Germany, fought against the partisan movement and trained agents for the front teams of the Abwehr. In the large cities occupied by the Wehrmacht, which had strategic and industrial significance, such as Tallinn, Kaunas, Minsk, Kiev and Dnepropetrovsk, local counterintelligence departments were stationed - abvernebenstelle (ANST), and in small cities convenient for dropping agents, located their branches are Ausenstelle.

In June 1941, in order to organize reconnaissance, sabotage and counterintelligence work against the Soviet Union, a special control body "Abwehr-Abroad" was created on the Soviet-German front, conventionally called the "Walli Headquarters", to which the Abwehr commands attached to army groups were subordinate. "North",

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Center, South. Each team had from 3 to 8 Abwehrgroups under their control.

The Abwehr had at its disposal special military formations to carry out sabotage missions: the Brandenburg-800 division and the Elector Regiment, which carried out sabotage and terrorist acts and reconnaissance work in the rear of the Red Army. By doing

As part of the tasks, saboteurs changed into the uniform of servicemen - Red Army soldiers or their commanders, were armed with Soviet weapons, and were supplied with cover documents.

In March 1942, a special reconnaissance and sabotage body "Zeppelin" was formed in the Main Directorate of Imperial Security of Germany (RSHA) to work against the USSR.

Since the beginning of the war, and especially since 1943, Soviet counterintelligence has waged a special struggle.

In total, from 1943 to 1944, SMERSH deployed more than 2,000 operational groups and more than 8,000 scouts across the front line. During the war years, Soviet military counterintelligence exposed 30,000 German agents, 3,500 saboteurs, 6,000 terrorists!

How to relate to the figures given in print? What do we know about the fate of scouts thrown behind enemy lines, what is the effectiveness of their actions, as evidenced by German sources? As for German agents, saboteurs, terrorists, the published figures are highly doubtful. They are not backed by any specifics. I believe that some of the "spies", "saboteurs" and "terrorists" received another 30 years for falsifying the criminal cases of officers and soldiers of the Red Army and partisans who fell into the "paws" of special departments.

I do not deny the heroism of the scout heroes who have been behind enemy lines. Honor and glory to them! 29 of them became Heroes of the Soviet Union. Some names of the heroes are mentioned in the press: Drobyazko, Bogdanov, Kozlov, Skorobogatov, and others.

1 Newspaper "Red Star". June 21, 2005.

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fall into the Abwehr and achieve high results in his intelligence activities.

According to the Soviet press, SMERSH provided great assistance by its actions to the Red Army in the Battle of Kursk, in the Byelorussian, Yassy-Kishinev, Baltic operations - this is how the Soviet press asserts. How, what was done by SMERSH for these purposes - we do not know about this and many other things.

The foregoing confirms the post-war study of the work of special departments in the period before the formation of SMERSH and after its appearance in the army. Political repressions in the Red Army in the first period were mostly carried out under Article 58-16, which means "Treason in the Motherland." According to the investigated criminal cases, about 90% of those arrested by special departments fell under the named

article. It should be noted that subsequently many of them were rehabilitated. Unfortunately, the shot will not return.

Rehabilitation accounted for about 60% of criminal cases, showed that all these cases were falsified?.

In the next period, from the second half of 1943 to the end of the war, in the activities of SMERSHA, the tactical installations of the punitive organs in the Red Army acquired a new character. To treason was added the accusation of recruitment by German intelligence, plus the old version: sabotage and terrorism.

Almost all investigative cases relating to the second period show that the SMERSH departments tried by all means to fulfill their tasks - to force a confession from the arrested servicemen that they were recruited by German intelligence. The same thing happened in the partisan detachments, of which there are many testimonies.

It is indicative of the case initiated literally in the last month of the Patriotic War, when our troops were already

' Profile. 06.2004.

2? Zvyagintsev V. The war on Femila's scales, the war of 1941-1945 in the materials of investigative and service cases. Moscow: Terra-incognita club, 2006.

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fought in Germany. The events themselves, which served as material for the initiation of the case by SMERSH, occurred at the end of 1944. Moreover, military intelligence officers fell under suspicion - people have already been, it would seem, proven more than once. On September 17, 1944, a group of military intelligence officers of the Reserve Front on a transport plane was transferred from the already liberated Lithuania to the rear of the enemy on German territory. For almost four months, scouts (in civilian clothes) successfully operated in the rear of the German troops, transmitting important information to the front command. However, in January 1945, two scouts from this group, T.E. Lopatin and A.A. Zaitsev, were detained by the German gendarmerie in a forest near the city of Insterburg. After several interrogations, they were placed in a concentration camp in the city of Zoldava.

On the eighth day, experienced scouts - one was a sergeant, the other a foreman - managed to escape from the camp. A day later, they went to the advancing units of the Red Army. But a week of captivity cost them dearly. For more than three months, the scouts were kept in a filtration camp, and then they were nevertheless arrested. On April 8, the arrest warrants for Lopatin and Zaitsev were approved by the head of the SMERSH department of the Reserve Front, Lieutenant General

nant Khannikov. The text of each resolution ended with the words: "Under dubious circumstances, he escaped from the concentration camp ... There are grounds to suspect involvement in German intelligence agencies ... Arrest and search."

Until the end of April, the SMERSH investigator interrogated each of the arrested three times. Every time after a story for a scout about a short stay in captivity and escape from a German concentration camp, he said: "You are lying. Give evidence, when and by whom you were recruited, what assignments you received ... "However, the investigator failed to obtain any confession: the intelligence officers had nothing to confess. The accusation of espionage fell apart. I think that two unusual documents filed in the archives played a significant role in this.

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investigative file: denunciations of secret informants SMER Sha. As a rule, documents of this kind are not filed in the archive and investigation file, but are kept in the personal file of the informant himself - as a characteristic of his active (or inactive) activity. But in rare cases such denunciations end up (probably erroneously) in the cases of the accused. It turned out that in the group of intelligence officers (it was code-named "Khoron"), out of 11 people, two were secret informers of SMERSH in combination. Upon returning from a mission from the German rear, they wrote detailed reports to the SMERSH department about their observations of the behavior and conversations with all the intelligence officers.

According to Konstantin Rozhkov, the military counterintelligence SMERSH created by Stalin directed its main activity against the so-called anti-Soviet elements, those officers and soldiers who expressed doubts about the fidelity of the Soviet system. This organization fought internal dissent in the army.' Tried to stop it by any means. Is Rozhkov right? In general, yes. His conclusion is supported by three facts. First of all, the brutal and bloody reprisals of SMERSH in 1945-1946 with former Russian prisoners of war and returnees. As a result of the constant and sometimes dishonest actions of SMERSHAA, more than a million Soviet citizens from fascist captivity ended up in Soviet camps.

The destruction of the Western Soviet agents of the NKVD and SMERSH, the defeat of basically the entire Soviet underground in the territory occupied by the Germans, as well as the largely mediocre system of sending agents behind enemy lines, as evidenced by numerous examples.

As a rule, the press presents us with facts and figures with an assessment of the Chekist side, and how and what the Germans think about the operations of SMERSHAA - not a word, not a half word ...

A curious fact, whose ears stick out everywhere.

The existence of SMERSHAA was terminated when the law

Rozhkov R "SMERSH - counterintelligence or a tool of intimidation?"
VVS.gazap.sot April 16, 2003.

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repatriation took place - that is, in 1946. Think - don't think. It turns out that one of the secret ideas of Stalin's organization of military counterintelligence was to deal with former Russian prisoners of war. SMERSH also did a lot to model the secret services of East Germany, Czechoslovakia and other countries of the so-called socialist bloc. In addition, fascist concentration camps were preserved on the territory of Germany and Poland, and "opponents of the socialist choice" were already serving their sentences in them. In Buchenwald, for several years after 1945, up to 60 thousand people were kept - those who fought against the Germans.

The pride of the Smershevites was the radio games they organized with the enemy during the war years. Different sources name a different number of radio games (250, 188, 88, etc.), some of the radio games are declassified, for example, "Monastery", "Novices", "Apostle", "Aryans", "Be cutting", etc. But declassification is general. We do not know the opinion of the enemy in radio games, as a rule, they were local in nature and did they have a significant impact on the frontline situation? The story with Max (Cheyne) is doubtful in many ways. It is pushed forward rather to prove the role of the battle of Rzhev on the Central Front, as a way to divert the attention of the enemy from the battle of Stalingrad.

Some modern sources claim that, in addition to obvious successes in the fight against foreign intelligence services, SMERSH acquired an "ominous" fame during the war years thanks to a system of repressions against the civilian population, which was occupied on the territory of the USSR temporarily occupied by German troops or in forced labor in Germany. Statements are also made that the slightest suspicion of cooperation led to arrests and executions among the military and civilian population. Some authors argue that SMERSH became a continuation of the Stalinist system of terror

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and suppression of dissent in the Soviet Union, and hesitate to categorize it as an intelligence or repressive agency. For example, it is reported that from 1941 to 1945, almost 700,000 people were arrested by the Soviet authorities - about 70 thousand of them were shot.

But. It is also reported that about 10 million people passed through the "purgatory" of SMERSH during the war years, and about a quarter of them were executed.

During the war, the investigation was difficult. Therefore, today one can hear or read that large groups of people were arrested illegally and that the "standard" term of imprisonment for many convicts, 25 years, also points to the repressive nature of SMERSH; that such terms of conviction were given not only to those suspected of collaborating with the Germans, but also to former Soviet citizens who returned home from forced labor in Germany; that in order to spy on and control dissent, SMERSH created and maintained a whole system of surveillance of citizens in the rear and at the front; that threats of reprisals led to cooperation with the secret service and to baseless accusations against military personnel and civilians.

These and other similar conclusions of modern authors can be taken into account, but only not in the case of their unfounded proof by general phrases or references to pseudo-historical sources. We will try to keep doing this.

SMERSH bodies are often criticized in connection with their filtration work. In 1941, I.V. Stalin signed a decree of the State Defense Committee of the USSR on the state check (filtration) of the Red Army soldiers who were captured or surrounded by enemy troops. The results of the "filtering" provided for the identification of traitors, spies and deserters among them. By a decree of the Council of People's Commissars of January 6, 1945, departments for repatriation affairs began to function at the headquarters of the fronts, in which employees took part

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nicknames of SMERSH bodies. Collection and transit points were created to receive and check Soviet citizens liberated by the Red Army. Filtration work required from SMERSH employees not only the highest professionalism, in particular, but also civic courage. It was especially difficult to conduct it among the former commanders and fighters of the Red Army. The interrogations of the Smershevites seemed to them insulting and unfair.

In terms of scale and scope, this activity of SMERSH, according to the Soviet press, is unparalleled in history, and this is true. During the years of the war, about 10 million men and women, former military men, partisans, immigrants, huge masses of people living in the occupied territories were subjected to filtration.

Here is what, for example, soldier Alexei Mikhaylov says. He returned from captivity at the end of October 1945 and immediately ended up in a filtration camp. "All military

the prisoners were sent to the Opukhliki station, where they were placed in dugouts. Formally, we were listed in the Gorky division, but in fact it was a filtration camp. All the affairs here were handled by our counterintelligence SMERSH ... The order was camp, and they were fed like a camp. I had to prove my loyalty, and most importantly, that I was taken prisoner against my will. There was a sorting, people were weeded out in all directions: some - to their homeland, to be a full citizen of their country, some - to the Kolyma, to mine gold, some - to the Siberian taiga, to saw wood. Before us again loomed the slogan "To each his own."

(Memories "What was, it was." It was on the Rzhev-Vyazemsky bridgehead. Book 1. S. 118-129.)

Stalinist filtering has no equal in the history of intelligence services, in the history of all armies. She left huge bloody scars in the life of the Soviet soldier, overshadowed the entire post-war period of the Soviet people until the death of Stalin.

The question is often asked: was SMERSH an effective system, did life justify the creation of this organization? There are many opinions about efficiency, but

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there is no doubt that it was a terribly rigid system. Not only to strangers, but first of all to their own. Any, the most insignificant, blunders were punished in the most severe way. Stalin held SMERSH in his hands and crushed the Smershevites with terrible force.

Any officer sent to the territory of the enemy, who carried out the task, was subjected to double-checking, was under suspicion: but did they not convert him?

In any case, a person who was in the camp of the enemy for a long time underwent the most thorough check. It was found out whether he remained betrayed, whether he was recruited, whether he had given more information than was stipulated, whether he was being used blindly? You had to have tremendous willpower to endure all this. But even after the check, you could be declared "suspicious" just in case. The outstanding intelligence officer of SMERSHA, Alexander Ivanovich Kozlov, one of the prototypes of the protagonist of the films "The Way to Saturn" and "The End of Saturn", rose to the rank of captain in the Abwehr. Moreover, the Germans knew that he was Russian. After going through the most severe trials, he returned to Rodinui and was repressed. Then he was amnestied and issued a certificate stating that from 1942 to 1945 he had been in German captivity. A man's life, his career were trampled underfoot. Instead of passing on his precious experience to younger employees, he worked in construction. They remembered Kozlov only somewhere in the mid-60s. This is what else! The most famous organizer of sabotage in the rear of the Germans, General Pavel Sudoplatov, served 15 years under Khrushchev from a call to

call. And not only he...

Under Khrushchev, the first wave of rehabilitation began. The Tribunal of the Moscow Military District acquitted A. Kozlov in absentia. He was even awarded the previously "lost" Order of the Red Banner - for partisan struggle. And a certificate was sent from the KGB such that again three years of being in the German rear, as it were, fell out of the biography. No matter how hard the old scout fought, he could not get clear information about himself. And almost all his life he did not have any benefits determined by the state for front-line soldiers.

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kov And repressed. Books were written about Kozlov, films were made, but formally he was listed everywhere simply as a former prisoner of war.

The fate of the scout Stefanovsky was also not easy. After being dropped on May 22, 1943 from an aircraft that started from one of the airfields in Finland, a spy group in the uniforms of junior officers of the Red Army landed in a forest area, which was part of the zone of responsibility of the Kuya border outpost of the Arkhangelsk border detachment. Stefanovsky and his accomplices presented themselves to the border guards as officers of one of the departments of the General Staff, who were on a secret mission to select a site for the construction of a special facility. They supposedly need to urgently contact Arkhangelsk and Moscow.

The border guards handed over the arrivals to the representatives of the Arkhangelsk military district. During interrogations in the mansion of the district department of counterintelligence "SMERSH", Stefanovsky and his "colleagues" spoke about their assignment. After conversations with the head of the investigative unit of the SMERSH ROC of the Arkhangelsk Military District, Mikhail Ryumin, and the officers who arrived from Moscow, the agents agreed to cooperate with the Smershevites.

And then this scout was repressed. "Who am I and what? A spy abandoned by the enemy," Stefanovsky wrote about himself. This voluntarily or involuntarily made confession speaks for itself. However, at the end of 1955, the author of the quoted words managed to be released from serving his sentence. They succeeded, because then, in the era of the Khrushchev thaw, many prisoners went under the same brush. After his release, the ex-agent worked for some time in his specialty in forest expeditions. And when he returned to Moscow, he even distinguished himself in the printing and pedagogical fields.

Speaking about the successes of the Soviet counterintelligence, Sudoplatov writes in his book that "the Abwehr and the Gestapo inflicted serious damage on the Soviet intelligence agencies. Beyond Doom

| Kuznetsov V. "Under the sign of Saturn". Stavropol truth.

22.2.2008.

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valuable agents in 1941-1943, we lost as a result of the actions of German counterintelligence the leaders of our residents in Smolensk, Kiev, Odessa, Kharkov, Minsk, Kherson, Nikolaev ... Among the dead were prominent members of Soviet intelligence. In fact, in Belorussia and Ukraine, in the Baltic republics, during the war years, the entire intelligence service was completely destroyed.

"Slandered". Over the past decades, Kremlin propaganda in Russia has done its best to whitewash the role of the NKVD, SMERSH, KGB in wartime and in the post-war period. From the general flow of mass media, we have presented as an example an article by a certain Lozunko called "Slandered" ...

The author complains, "... that few people in recent years have been subjected to such large-scale obstruction, humiliation and defamation as the Chekists (specialists / "Smershevites" / NKVDists). Their role in the Great Patriotic War is presented mostly in a negative light. The bulk of the population receives information not from documentary sources (archives or eyewitness accounts), but through mass culture, works of art, and above all, through "the main of the arts" – cinema. And since the latter is pursuing a pronounced anti-specialist (anti-en kavedist) line, then the opinion about counterintelligence officers (who were special officers-"Smershevites" were) and military personnel of the NKVD develops accordingly. In modern films, the obligatory number of the program is some scoundrel from SMERSH or fattened physiognomies of the NKVD, holed up in the rear (guarding the prisoners - entirely innocently convicted) and in detachments (the numerical strength of which, judging by the films, almost exceeds the active army). These are "Moscow Saga", "Children of the Arbat", "Cadets", "Saboteur", "Fine baht", "Convoy RO-17", "At an unnamed height", "First

Sergei Lozunko. "Slandered", the article is abbreviated. (Author's note).
Vlr://nevm\$2000.oge.ca/rgyE?a=%2pa

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after God", "Bless the woman", "Driving", "In June not 41st"... Standing apart among modern films is only "In August 44th", filmed based on the work of the same name by Bogomolov, where the work of "SMERSH" is shown on in a positive light!!!"

In order to convince the reader that he is right, Lozunko argues in favor of the Chekists: "...special officers (from April 1943 - Smershevites) worked to identify the prerequisites for desertion and treason. If you look at the films mentioned at the beginning of the material, you get the following impression: the more heroically an officer and a soldier fight, the more special officers "dig" under him, trying, under a far-fetched pretext, to make an enemy out of him. And how was it really? Exactly the opposite!

Why did counterintelligence take the Red Army soldiers under special control, start operational affairs? Yes, for the same told anecdote of an anti-Soviet nature, for a phrase thrown in the heat of the moment, and so on. They were vigilant. But! As soon as a fighter demonstrated courage and loyalty to his oath, all suspicions were removed from him ... "Further, the author gives examples that this is exactly what special officers always did.

"The role of the NKVD in the Great Patriotic War was not limited to the performance of purely specific, narrowly professional functions. And wow, of course, they did not hide behind the rear, which modern mass culture shows us. This lie offends the memory of many thousands of special officers who died at the front, and those Chekist veterans who honestly performed their duty and survived to this day, and now should be embarrassed that they served in the NKVD.

Someone had to stop it, carry out systematic preventive work, identifying potential alarmists and cowards.

For example, by October 10, 1941, 657,364 servicemen who had fallen behind their units and fled from the front were detained by operational barriers of special departments and NKVD detachments (not to be confused with army detachments created after order No. 227)! From this number

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the overwhelming mass was sent back to the front lines. Arrested 25,878 (spies - 1505, saboteurs - 308, deserters - 8772, crossbowmen - 1671); 10 201 - shot. More than 2,200 operational groups were prepared and deployed behind enemy lines by counterintelligence agencies, from which 4,400 important intelligence messages were received, including the preparation of an offensive in the Orel and Kursk region, which made it possible to preempt the enemy strike. For example, in June 1944 alone, 118 operational groups with a total number of 7,000 people operated behind German lines ... Radio games - in certain periods of the war, Soviet counterintelligence and SMERSH GUKR conducted them simultaneously up to 70 from the deep rear and areas located near front...

Facts and archival data refute the widely launched thesis about how the Smershevites of all without permission

Bora - in particular, those who had been captured - were recorded as "enemies of the people" ... For example, from October 1941 to March 1944, 317,594 former prisoners of war were or were being tested (at that time). Of these: 223,281 (70.3%) were sent to the Red Army; 4337 (1.4%) - to the escort troops of the NKVD; 5716 (1.8%) - in the defense industry; 1529 (0.5%) died in the hospital. 8,255 (2.6%) were sent to penal units, 11,283 (3.5%) were arrested. With regard to the rest (61,394), the verification continued (Military History Journal, 1997, No. 5). It turns out that a little more than 6% were subjected to repressions, and most of them got the opportunity to restore their rights through penal companies. Does the rather often repeated statement "from the Hitler camps went to the Soviet ones" correspond to the truth? No. According to the State Archives of the Russian Federation (GARF), which leads I. Pykhalov, | March 1946, 4,199,488 Soviet citizens were repatriated (2,660,013 civilians and 1,539,475 prisoners of war), of which 1,846,802 came from the zones of action.

¹ Pykhalov I. Truth and lies about Soviet prisoners of war (false article). (Author's note)

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Lozunko talks about the participation of the NKVD troops in military battles, writes about the work of special departments, SMER SHAa, and filtration. About the struggle of the military counterintelligence with the Ab Vera.

The author correctly says that military counterintelligence exists in all armies. But this judgment sounds naive, because, for example, neither American nor British counterintelligence behaved criminally, as was typical of Soviet counterintelligence. The author does not speak about the criminal role of the NKVD, special departments during the Leningrad blockade. On the illegal actions of the Leningrad enkave deshniki in Leningrad'.

The author's conclusion about more significant losses of troops and operatives of the NKVD in the initial period of the war is not entirely accurate. I think that the heavy losses of the enkavedeshniki are largely due to the fact that they were shot a lot by both their own and the Germans. All divisions of the NKVD, and even the 70th Army, fought under the overall command of the Red Army.

The rehabilitation of mainly NKVD Smershevs and KGB officers took place during Putin's coming to power. From year to year, more and more action movies in the spirit of James Bond appear on the shelves of bookstores. As a rule, they are issued in high print runs in colorful design; these books are readily sold out. And what is especially surprising is that at the detective level, books about Abakumov, the all-powerful head of SMERSHAA, occupy a special place in this primitive reading matter.

Let us name, for example, only a few book fighters that elevate the heroic deeds of SMERSH officers and, of course, their superiors to the skies. At the same time, in all books and articles there is a reference to 30 thousand spies exposed by SMERSH.

Here is Abarinov's book. What is it about? The title itself answers the question. "The winner of the Abwehr" - and this, of course, is Viktor Semenovich Abakumov.

Lomagin N. Leningrad in the blockade. M.: from Yauza, Eksmo, 2005.

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Catchy names: "Himmler's Riddles", "Saturn" and "Death of Saturn", "People's Commissar SMERSH", "Apostle", "SMERSH, everyday life of an ordinary counterintelligence officer".

In these books, more precisely waste paper, it is stated in all seriousness that the Soviet military counterintelligence was the strongest during the war years, that it defeated the Abwehr in 1944. Does the reader know that the Abwehr was disbanded in February 1944, and its chief, Admiral Wilhelm Kahn, was removed from his post and soon arrested, and then hanged by Hitler's order in 1945?

What can be said about the attempts to rehabilitate Abakumov? This "man", if you can call him that, knew too much about what Stalin and the Central Committee of the Party were doing. It is no coincidence that before the execution, his last words were: "I will tell the Politburo everything." Most of all about the activity of this monster was told by the historian Kostyrchenko.

We advise the reader to get acquainted with the essay by Leonid Mlezhik on the Internet about General Abakumov².

Forty years after the conviction and execution of Abakumov, on September 17, 1997, the General Prosecutor's Office of the Russian Federation reviewed the sentence against the general, excluded charges of treason from him, and replaced the execution with 25 years in camps without confiscation of property. What's next? The legend of the hero among the people is growing stronger, in addition to books, a documentary film "The Winner of the Abwehr" has already appeared, a photo album has been released ... Two glorious dates loom ahead: 2012 - the 200th anniversary of Russia's Victory over Napoleon, as well as 2015 - 70 Anniversary of the Victory of Russia over Nazi Germany. From books, films, a photo album, it follows that Abakumov is a legendary personal

| Kostyrchenko G. V. The secret of Stalin's policy. Power and anti-Semitism. M.: Publishing House "International Relations", 2003. (In the index, 38 references are given to the name "Abakumov" with page indications.)

2 Mlezhik L. "Leningrad case" and other cases of General Abakumov. Profile is a target magazine: news, politics, economics, finance, business. No. 21 (482). 5.6.2006.

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ness. One of the books about Abakumov is called "General Abakumov - the all-powerful master of SMERSHA".

Was it really so? No! The all-powerful master of SMERSHAA for all three years of its existence was Stalin, People's Commissar for Defense. Everything that SMERSH carried out was determined by Stalin. Let us ask ourselves: could Abakumov have arrested the generals without the sanction of the people's commissar of defense? Could not. Each radio game required the receipt of certain allegedly truthful external information. It was prepared by the General Staff. But he gave the go-ahead to receive it and send it to the camp of the enemy, the people's commissar of defense. The fate of the former Russian prisoners of war was in the hands of Stalin. Abakumov only fulfilled his tyrannical will. And so it is in everything: in sending Smershevites to the German rear, in organizing the entire system, in "filtering", reprisals against migrants and former prisoners of war — this whole terrible mechanism called SMERSH was twisted and turned by Stalin day after day.

The Chekists, and not only them, were especially outraged by the film "Penal Battalion" - for me, a wonderful film that I watched "with tears in my eyes." Here is how the black-hundred newspaper Duel assessed him:

"Somehow I had a chance to watch the movie "Penal Battalion" on TV, concocted by the pathological scoundrels from the cinema art Volodarsky, Dostal and Weisberg. (Well, what can you do! All the Jews again!) In the long years of my life (and I saw all sorts of crap beyond measure in it), I have never seen a more vile, vile creation about the Great Patriotic War of the Soviet people against fascism! I won't talk about the content of this disgusting movie opus. I hope the Russian people watched this disgusting rabid Jewish haters on TV. And appreciated accordingly! The only pity is that the actor Alexei Serebryakov allowed himself to be dragged into the lead role. But in general, such disgusting among creative accomplices is a common practice (past bad, of course).

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What are you trying to achieve, gentlemen of the NKVD, individuals, KGB men? Do you strive to "become more alive than all living things", to earn people's glory and love, respect, to become on a par with the veterans of the Red Army? Repent first!

Take at least a couple of steps into your past, open the historical truth to people. Reveal the secrets and live your intelligence heroes, describe the dramatic history of the Soviet underground, in the occupation of those who died as a result of betrayal. Explain its mass character during the war years, it is high time to tell the truth about the partisan movement. Finally, were there principled and honest prosecutors, military tribunals during the war? Of course they were, but what do we know about them? Here they deserve a story about themselves. Finally, explain why you justify your past, starting from the nervous days of Soviet power?

Open your archives, probably covered with mold for a long time. This, I believe, will restore the historical truth, because, gentlemen, NKVD officers, special officers, Smershevites, KGB officers, the deadlines for keeping documents of our past have long passed. Of course, maybe there is some data that is top-secret in nature. Well, for God's sake, keep them as a keepsake. And the rest - why keep it? For example, Cheka's archives? You know very well that the fate of those romantic Chekists of the first years of the revolution was long ago determined by Comrade Stalin.

Why don't you let your own archives containing materials about the Khrushchev and Brezhnev periods into the special archives? Don't let anyone near the "Case" of L.P. Beria, V.S. Abakumov?

Why did you hide, perhaps forever, in your bins the history of Stalin's war with his peoples (1944-1946): with the Crimean Tatars, Kalmyks, Meskhetian Turks, Kurds, Kabardians, Chechens, Balkars, Ingush. Only two facts about what was said:

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In accordance with the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and the Decree of the Council of People's Commissars of December 28, 1943, the NKVD of the USSR carried out the operation "Ulus" to resettle persons of Kalmyk nationality in the eastern regions. In total, 26,359 families, or 93,139 people, were loaded onto trains and sent to places of resettlement in the Altai and Krasnoyarsk Territories, Novosibirsk and Omsk Regions. Unable to get used to the new conditions, climate, food, unusual way of life for them, the Kalmyks were doomed to extinction (about 12 thousand people were sent to the Tyumen region, settled mainly in the Surgut region). Only in 1954, the survivors were allowed to return to their homeland.

The fate of the repressed peoples was also shared by the native inhabitants of Yamal, the Nenets. In November-December 1943, local party, Soviet and Chekist organs provoked a protest by a group of Nenets who disbanded the collective farms, divided the socialized deer and culled

Chewed deep into the tundra. This situation was presented by Bykov, his deputy Garanin and the head of the Yamal regional department of the NKGB Medvedev as an "uprising" (in Nenets - "mandala"), organized by Hitler's intelligence. Hydrographer Plyusnin was presented as its resident in Yamal, and under torture he was forced to confess that he had been recruited by an officer who had landed from a German submarine and that he had "performed the task of creating insurgent detachments from the local population."

A company of submachine gunners was sent by plane from Omsk to Yamal. Gathering the unarmed Nenets by deceit, the soldiers opened fire on them: seven were laid down on the spot, the same number were wounded, the rest of the reindeer herders were arrested and taken to Salekhard, and then sent to the Gulag. The authors of the criminal scenario of the "mandala" were awarded: Bykov - the Order of the Red Banner, Garanin - the "Badge of Honor", Medvedev - the Red Star. Only in 1946 did the new leadership

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The Ministry of State Security of the USSR reviewed this case in the course of another purge of the department.

Where did you hide disabled veterans (cripples) after the end of hostilities? It is known that some of them ended up on Valaam, and they were buried there. And the rest of the unfortunate ones: what did they do with them, where did they send them?

Something was declassified about the "filtration" carried out in the country, some general figures, individual episodes "surfaced"! Every case that gets into this meat grinder must be reviewed. Especially former Russians

prisoners of war.

I am convinced that through violence against people, the falsification of many thousands of criminal cases, the total number of allegedly "caught spies" during the war years was named - 30 thousand SPIES ...

Discover the truth about the massacre of former Russian prisoners of war who escaped from German captivity and joined the ranks of French or Italian partisans. After the Victory of the Allies and their return to their homeland, the fate of these heroes turned out to be deplorable - many of them, after the notorious filtration, ended up in Siberia - in camps! ..

Until now, there is no answer to the question: why in the Baltic republics, in Belarus and especially in Ukraine, "filtration" has received such a large development? Without pulling out materials from your archives, which is just not there, from the time of the occupation, about the life of Soviet people under the conditions of the "new Order" established by the Germans. And this is an acute problem of national history, which has not yet been closed...

Military archives are still inaccessible, and their most important holdings are classified, for example, documents on the behavior of the Red Army towards the civilian population of Germany. To this day, historians depend on the Ministry of Defense. While the mechanisms of government from the time of the Sta-

`Tomensky courier. October 24, 2006.

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Lin and the Gulag are widely represented by documents, there is nothing similar in relation to the Second World War. In particular, this is why Soviet myths are still alive. Nevertheless, their debunking is hindered not only by the military, who perceive scientific criticism as a "blow against the Fatherland," but also by the current rulers of Russia, who place national accents.

Being captured during the war was considered a betrayal. This is probably wrong, because any war on both sides cannot be without losses and without prisoners ... It's another matter, one side suffers more losses, the other less ... The stages of the war are changing ... We had mass captures of encircled units during the war.

Finally, gentlemen of the NKVD, special forces, Smershevites, is it not time to open the archives connected with the use of fascist camps after the war and for keeping opponents of the Soviet system in East Germany?

In the five post-war years, a total of 60,000 prisoners were kept in special camp No. 7. 12 thousand of them died of starvation and disease. Some of the prisoners were transferred to the USSR, later 5.5 thousand were returned to the GDR. After the last 8,000 prisoners were released in the spring of 1950, the camp was closed.

Let me ask the last question to the current employees of the FSB, the successor to the KGB: why were German children brought from Germany to the USSR in the first postwar years? "By order of the NKVD." How did their fate turn out and was it possible to establish their family ties and return at least one of the adults to Germany?

One of the first to tell about this mysterious story was the newspaper Arguments and Facts. A story about one already adult man - Pavel Nikolaevich Shepelev.

'Gasán Huseynov. Sachsenhausen. Two crimes in one museum, 12/11/2001. (Vlr:/\m\m.A\umog.Ae/roir\$/rorir_rgy\{sop- {e11/0.444981.00.W}).

Svetlana Kravchenko. "Arrived from Germany to Russia by order of the NKVD. The newspaper "Arguments and Facts", No. 21, 97.2.

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60 years ago, youngsters were taken to orphanages with a certificate "Transported from Germany by order of the NKVD." Like this!

Notes. To the current "boast" of the "immortal" Chekists - about the victory over the author ... Here is a detailed truthful story from the book of E.S. Fedorov. It was printed in Rzhev in 1995 in an edition of only 300 copies. Naturally, hardly anyone knows about it. At the same time, the pages of the book show pictures of the life of people in the occupied Rzhev, as well as in Sychevka. This is the highest honesty, and patriotism, and vile betrayal - such is life. They tell about the deployment of Soviet intelligence officers to the territory of the enemy, about the transience and needlessness of their training, as a result, many of them died. These are the facts!

'. Fedorov E. S. About military Rzhev. Documents and facts. Rzhev: Production and printing enterprise, 1995.

"To criticize one's country is to render it a service... Criticism is more than just a right; criticism is an act of patriotism ... I think a higher manifestation of patriotism than the familiar rituals of national servility.

William Fulbright
(American public figure)

Head of the fifteenth

WHOSE VICTORY? ON THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VICTORY

Who won: Private Ryan or Private Ivan?

Since the American film directed by Steven Spielberg's "Saving Private Ryan" (Zausche Riouase Kuap) was shown on the screens of America and Russia, the media in the West and East have repeatedly discussed the role of Ryan and Ivan in the victory over fascism.

Before looking into this extraordinary issue, let us briefly recall the plot of the film. At first glance, it is simple, but it is far from it. The American command learns that an American mother received telegrams about the death of three sons on the same day. Thursday

her trusted son, Ryan, is fighting somewhere in France. General George Marshal, having learned about this, sends officers to the unfortunate woman. They inform her of the order to "rescue" James Francis Ryan (played by actor Met Damon). Soon, a small detachment led by Captain Miller (played by actor Tom Hanks) is dropped over France. The detachment gets to the part where Ryan serves, and you literally drag him "out of the fire." At what cost? The entire rank and file and the commander perish.

Let us ask ourselves: was this situation possible during the war years in the Soviet Army? Incidentally, this case

TA. Minkin. Whose Victory? If we have great-great-grandchildren, what will they understand about the war? And what will they know? —

Ner://muum. tk.ha/pitbag\$/1960/ag1<e56220.Vip Marianna Sha

Bernikov. How Private Ryan Veer was filmed: //weziiK.com

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which served as the basis for the plot for the film, really took place in an American family (her last name is also known). Spielberg's films, such as Schindler's List and Amistad, are also based on real historical facts.

Chekhov once, speaking of art, said: "You can lie in love, in politics, in medicine, you can deceive the Lord God himself - there have been such cases - but you cannot deceive in art."

Did Steven Spielberg's film deceive the audience in America or in Russia?

To answer this question, let's go back to the plot of the film. The picture of the last battle is tragically shown. For the soldiers died. Everyone understands that a difficult hour is ahead. Captain Miller, Corporal Majery, dies. Naturally, the thought arises: is not their death in vain? Obviously, this scene - the climax of the entire film - is not only a testament to human courage, but it teaches a lesson in high morality!

"The most important trick," say the magicians of the Hollywood movie business, "is to sell successful characters to the public." Is it possible to "successfully" sell the characters of a Spielberg film to the audience?

The film ends with a scene at a military cemetery, where there are many crosses. In front of the grave of Captain Miller stands a tall, straight and no longer young Ryan, he cries and repents himself: "They did not die, but ascended ..."

Saving Private Ryan is the first World War II movie I saw in America. It aroused pride and tears, and I was not ashamed of them... In the film, I did not see a single false scene: everything is as it was in the war!

What is the main idea expressed in the film? I think about the value of every human life - in the name of it, both the Russians and the Americans fought against the Nazis. However, for many years after the end of World War II, and especially during the period of the Cold War, the Soviet press sharply criticized the former allies for underestimating the contribution of the Red Army to the defeat of the Nazis.

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Russian Germany. This criticism, often unfair, continues to this day. How can this be explained?

Both in the USA and in Western Europe, many people believed and still believe that John Wen, the main Hollywood movie character of the Second World War, and then Private Ryan saved Europe from Nazism. A general assessment of the role of the Allied armies in the war was expressed by General Dwight Eisenhower, Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces in Europe: "The campaigns in the Mediterranean theater of operations and in Europe were unparalleled in the history of wars, during these campaigns the United States Army conducted operations unprecedented in the time of its creation in 1775.

An American newspaper wrote: "While the great democracies are widely celebrating the events of 60 years ago, while they are paying tribute to the courage of the Omaha G.I., the resilience of the liberators of Paris, the horror of the opening of the to the splendor of the American troops, one guest is always absent from the festive table. In the midst of the speeches, the poor friend, who is not much embarrassed, remained outside the door. This friend is the Soviet soldier Ivan. It was he who threw the banner with the swastika from the Reichstag.

The English historian Anthony Beevor notes: "On the day of the landing in Normandy, the Americans lost about ten thousand soldiers and officers. Spielberg's film "Saving Private Ryan" showed what losses the Americans suffered on this day - June 6, 1944. "So," says Anthony Beevor, "they were less than the average daily loss of the Red Army during the entire Great Patriotic War." In these words, one can see a serious change in the views of the West on the role of Ivan in achieving a common victory!

In Russia, the opinion prevails that the main role in the defeat of the Wehrmacht belongs to the Red Army. It is based on the fact that more than 70% of the Germans were destroyed in the Eastern

1 EisenhowerD. Crusade to Europe. Smolensk: Rusich, 2000. S. 502.

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exact front. But there is another circumstance that cannot be ignored. Here is what the famous historian Richard Pais says about this: "Western public opinion perceives the Victory over Germany in a much broader context, where the fact of the undoubted heroism of the Russian people pales against the background of other events. For example, the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact gave Hitler the green light to attack Poland and started World War II. Stalin, having received the Baltic countries, Western Ukraine, counted on the fact that the scenario familiar to him from the First World War would repeat, that is, Germany with its allies and its opponents would bleed each other. But this time Russia was supposed to be smarter than her - she would remain on the sidelines, and then easily conquer Europe. So for a Western person, the memory of the Second World War and the role of Russia in it is not entirely unambiguous. On the one hand, Russia played a significant role in the defeat of Germany and almost nothing in the victory over Japan, on the other hand, it unleashed the Second World War together with Germany.

In response to such serious reproaches, the Russian side recalls Munich - one of the shameful pages of the past of British diplomacy, which has long been publicly condemned in the West. Russia, on the other hand, stubbornly insists on its infallibility in unleashing the Second World War, not to mention the Stalinist criminal past.

Moreover, on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the start of World War II (September 1, 2009), the Russian authorities came up with a new version of the start of the war - Poland is to blame for everything, it is in fact the main instigator of World War II. For these purposes, the FSB of Russia issued a special collection of previously secret documents about Poland's relations with Germany, about Goering's visit to Warsaw, about Poland's participation in the power sharing with the Nazis of the Czech Republic, etc. The version invented by the Kremlin ideologists is false and pursues the goal of diverting public opinion from the criminal Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact in 1939.

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It is known that on the eve of the anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War, the Assembly of the European Community declared August 23 (the day the pact was signed) as the Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Stalinism and Nazism. By the way, speaking in Poland on September 1, 2009 at a commemorative rally dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II, Vladimir Putin was forced to call the signing of the pact an "anti-moral" fact.

Significant changes have taken place in the West in the last decade in assessing the role of the Eastern Front in World War II. A striking example... In the British newspaper *The Telegraph* in May 2007, a book review by Katherine Merridale was published. It says:

"This is more than just a book: it is a juicy, detailed and at times heartbreaking portrait of an archetype Russian infantryman - a man who suffered cruelly throughout the war, not least at the hands of his compatriots. The order of figures that measures the number of those who did not return from the war from the battles against the German Wehrmacht is striking. From 1939 to 1945, more than 30 million people of both sexes were mobilized into the active army, and more than eight million of them died in battle, from disease and starvation. The number of civilian deaths is twice as high. 25 million people were left homeless. The first years of the war were the worst. By early 1942, 2.7 million people had been killed on the battlefield; almost 3 million more were captured. During the war, the Red Army was almost completely renewed twice. About three-quarters of the soldiers who fought in the infantry were peasants who were not very loyal to the communist system, mainly, Merridale notes, the Soviet people who fought and died defending the Stalinist regime, kept the tyrant in power. Ivan saved the Motherland, but enslaved self-

| Katherine Merridale (Sashegipe Mendale). "War through the eyes of Ivan: life and death in the Red Army in 1939-1945" (Guap's Umag: [1E apd Oeai sh 1e Ved Agtu), as well as a review by Marina Efimova Ivanov's war. Historical work. "Freedom". 12.27.07.

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yourself. He fought for his country, but not for freedom. The veteran soldiers interviewed by Merridale say the only positive thing they have learned from the war is "they have learned to appreciate life more." Sadly, these words seem like a perfectly appropriate commentary on Ivan's decisive role in the bloodiest war in the history of mankind.

According to the British newspaper *The Guardian*, "in the fight against Nazism, for every soldier Ryan who died, there were about 40 dead Russian Ivans."

As if summing up the assessments of Western historians and military experts, Alexander Gennis, a publicist and journalist, expresses his own position in a long-term dispute about the place of Ryan and Ivan. "On achieving victory over Hitler's Germany":

"Western popular historiography of the Second World War," says the author, "takes a complete reversal. Until recently, it was for the most part

focused on Allied combat, releasing mountains of books on every battle on the Western Front, from El Alamein to the Normandy landings to the Battle of the Bulge. Such predominant coverage of the military operations of the Western Allies created confidence among uninformed American readers that Nazi Germany was defeated by the Americans and the British. True, Western historians have always noted the heavy losses of the Soviet Union (incomparable to the losses of the allies) and sympathized with the tragedy of its inhabitants, but the role of the Soviet Army in the victory was clearly underestimated. Here's how Ben Schwartz (Wepatt Zsp\ar7), a reviewer of new books on Russia's role in the war, explains it in his review article "A Gift from Stalin": Churchill, in his chronicle of World War II (which largely shaped

Alexander Genis. "So who defeated Hitler? A New View of the West on Russia's Role in World War II. \m\name.zu0bo

ape\iz.gi/ag1c1e/2007/04/26/20070426141633240.pi11.marina

Efimov. Ivan's war. Historical work (review). "Free Yes", 012-027, 2007.

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kantz) deliberately belittled the decisive role of the Soviet superpower in the victory over the Third Reich. And then - Western historians fell into the same trap between the works of Soviet specialists and the memoirs of non-German generals. Both of them distorted the history of the war: Soviet specialists - out of fear and for reasons of the strictest secrecy, German generals - out of wounded pride, out of a desire to whitewash themselves and the army, out of guilt, out of Aryan arrogance, and the like.

The British historian John Erickson (Lovy Encksop) was the first to seriously address the Eastern Front, publishing two books, in 1975 and 1983, *The Road to Stalingrad* and *The Road to Berlin*. American military historian Colonel David Glantz wrote 16 major works on the war on the Eastern Front from 1989 to 2006, among them the book *Clash of the Titans: How the Soviet Army Stopped Hitler*.

In 2006, two British authors published works of great historical and literary value: Anthony Beevor and the translator Vinogradova published in English Vasily Grossmann's wartime memoirs *A Writer at War*, according to Schwartz, the best eyewitness account so far. And, finally, the diplomat and historian Rodrik Brightwaite, in his book "Moscow 1941" described in detail the life of the capital in those days when the Nazi army approached it (a fact that in the West is

completely ignored). The book also describes the battle for Moscow, which cost the lives of 926 thousand Soviet soldiers. Now - about the two most recent works. These are the chronicle of Geoffrey Roberts "Stalin's War" and the book of the famous British historian Norman Davis "Europe at War. 1939-1945". Davis, whose book is written with unexpected vehemence and sharp irony, directly condemns Americans for narcissism. The populist historian Stephen Ambrose especially gets it, for convincing his compatriots that it was they who stopped Hitler. Davis writes: "For four years, 400 German and Soviet divisions fought on the Eastern Front. The front line stretched

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1600 kilometers. And on the Western Front, even the most intense fighting took place between 15-20 divisions. Eighty eight percent of all losses the German army suffered on the Eastern Front. In July 1943, it was the Soviet troops that broke the will and ability of the German army to carry out massive attacks along the entire front. "Kursk Bulge" - that's the name that historians need to remember! The leading role of the Soviet Army in the Second World War will be so obvious to future historians that they will relegate Britain and America only to the role of decisive support. The statement, in my opinion, is absolutely correct. We must not only forget that from December 1941 to September 1945, the Americans also fought with the Japanese. Historian Davies' conclusion about the decisive role of the Red Army in the victory over Hitler leads him to another conclusion: that "the most brutal regime in the history of Europe was defeated not by democracies, but by another brutal regime." One despot is another despot. However, both Davis and Roberts clearly favor our despot. True, they both consider Stalin personally responsible for the terrible military catastrophe that the Soviet Army experienced at the beginning of the war, but they come to the conclusion that a huge share of the merit in achieving victory also belongs to Stalin personally. Benjamin Schwartz summarizes the position of both authors as follows: firstly, Stalin allowed talented generals to lead the army and gave them freedom of action. Secondly, he personally participated in the leadership of all other areas of activity during the war years: from the miraculous economic revival to the spheres of high diplomacy. Roberts, in Stalin's War, goes further than Davis and states: "To make so many mistakes and then rise from the ashes and lead the country to the greatest victory was an incomparable triumph. The world for us, for democracies, was saved by Stalin. I think this is the other extreme. Hitler was defeated not by Stalin, but by those people whom he stopped hindering for the duration of the war: officers, designers, doctors, but

¹ The figures given by Davis are not entirely accurate. (Author's note)

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also those who are often forgotten in discussions about historical processes: privates, lieutenants, nurses, fine bati, Klavdiya Shulzhenko, partisans, women in the rear factories ... "

Despite the above facts, on the eve of the 60th anniversary of the Victory, the Russian Duma issued a sharp statement to the West: they say that no one is allowed to revise the history of the war and once again recalled Russia's enormous sacrifices in the fight against the Nazi invaders. In this case, it is useful to recall the ancient saying of Cicero: "He who is so deaf that he does not even want to hear the truth from a friend is hopeless ..."

Alexander Yakovlev, a prominent Russian democrat and academician, shortly before his death (2007) expressed doubts about the official figure for the losses of the USSR during the war years. They are too low and far from accurate. He called the death toll - more than 30 million. "But the figure mentioned is obviously not final. Some historians claim that 43-45 million died. Yakovlev confirmed that during the war years about a million officers and soldiers of the Red Army were shot by their own. Most importantly, Yakovlev urged to stop talking about whose contribution to the Victory over fascism is more significant.

As Alexander Yakovlev relates: "I was reading an American textbook about World War II. It did not even mention the Soviet Union - this is an extreme degree of immorality. But on the other hand, it is also without morality if someone among us says that, they say, here we and only we won the victory. It is time to reckon with the facts of history: the victory was won by the anti-Hitler coalition. They would not have defeated Hitler without us, and we would not have defeated them without them," added Yakovlev. This is true from all points of view, including the moral one, and from the point of view of our future as a united humanity. And to motivate those who have died more ... It, in my opinion, is even shameful - to count the corpses. "Do not touch the dead, more or less - they

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they can also take revenge, they also know how to speak," Yakovlev noted.

Sticking out losses as a decisive factor in Victory is absurd and stupid. Meanwhile, this idea often sounds on the pages of the Russian press and in the mouths of its leaders, which is bad and indicates a careless attitude towards Ivan, and therefore speaks of the low level of military skill of Russian commanders.

Western historians often ask: "Why could other peoples of Europe fight differently, minimize the losses of their troops? On the Eastern Front hundreds and thousands

soldiers' lives were sacrificed to Stalin's demand to fight for the sake of victory "at any cost"!

Between 60 and 70% of the population of Russia are confident that the Red Army would have won without the help of the allies. Can we agree with this? This point of view of Russians, both in the past and in the present, is based rather on ignorance of many facts that are hushed up or distorted by official historians.

What do Russian youth know about the heroic time of delivery of military equipment, ammunition, equipment, etc. from America, Great Britain and Canada to the Soviet Union? under Lend-Lease. About the death of 6,000 Allied sailors during the movement of ships across the ocean to deliver cargo to Soviet ports.

What do the Russian youth know about the operations of the British pilots in the North, in the region of Murmansk and Arkhangelsk?

Is it true in modern Russia what the "Second Front" means? The Allies developed their own strategy and began to fight Nazi Germany - in the Mediterranean theater of operations, in North Africa, where Hitler created the so-called "African Corps" under the command of a talented commander, General Rommel. And if Hitler could supply his troops in Africa with additional reserves, weapons, and, most importantly, the necessary amount of fuel,

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then, probably, Rommel could break into Egypt, Palestine.

After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor (December 1941), the United States actually started World War II from scratch. After the First and before the start of the Second World War, the US Army consisted of 140,000 soldiers and officers.

Some publicists and historians, more often in the East than in the West, explain the arguments about the contribution of the Allies to the Victory as follows: they say, the German reptile died and it was not difficult to defeat it, the main thing was to prevent a single victory of the Red Army.

Therefore, the landing in Normandy allowed to end the Second World War and did not allow the third world war to flare up. If the Red Army tried to seize the territory of the whole of Europe, the allies would not allow it
allowed..

The foregoing, we are talking about the Second Front, at least - frivolously.

And one more passage by the Russian publicist Leonid

Rodzikhovsky: "If we won the war on land, and the war on the sea was not decisive, then the allies won the war in the air!" One would like to ask the question: without the destruction of the German submarine fleet of the allies, would it be possible to open the Second Front in Europe and provide enormous assistance to the Soviet Union during the years of the Lend-Lease war?

German submarines, which freely plied the oceans and seas until 1943, significantly complicated the efforts of the allies by limiting transatlantic transportation. In 1942 alone, German submarines sank 1,027 Allied ships.

The German submarine fleet inflicted enormous damage on the Allied fleet, destroying thousands of ships, merchant and military, with a total tonnage of more than 14 million tons. At the beginning of 1942, it became clear that a landing in Europe could be organized.

'Rodzikhovsky L. War for life and war for freedom. "Russian newspaper". 06/04/2004.

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only by destroying the German submarine fleet in the Atlantic!. Nazi Germany entered World War II with 57 submarines. C | From September 1939 to May 4, 1945, 1,113 submarines entered service with the German submarine fleet. Participated in combat operations 863 submarines. Of these, 630 submarines were destroyed.

The actions of the Allies in North Africa created the conditions for a successful landing of troops in Europe. Throughout 1942 and 1943, the United States was restructuring industry to meet the ever-increasing needs of the Allies for military resources. During this period, US industry supported remote bases and operations in the Pacific, campaigns in North Africa and Italy, while mobilizing manpower and materiel for landings in Europe. At the same time, the United States continued to carry out critical supplies to its Western allies and the Soviet Union. The fact that the United States was able not only to provide for its own needs, but at the same time, together with Great Britain and Canada, to support the Soviet Union, testified both to the colossal industrial power of the United States and to its devotion to the cause of the anti-Hitler coalition.

The mobilization and training of the large numbers of soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines needed to wage war with Japan in the Pacific and to land in Europe was no easy task and took time. In 1942-1943, the United States was able to mobilize and train a sufficient number of military

employees for staffing combat landing units. At the same time, military operations in North Africa helped US troops gain vital combat experience and identify the most gifted

'
Dennits K. German submarines 1939-1945. St. Petersburg: Polygon Publishing House. 2002. Appendix No. 7. pp. 172-173.

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warlords'. Careful preparations for the unique Allied landing in Normandy took more than a year.

Finally, it should be recalled that in 1942-1943 the Allies waged war on the Pacific front, where huge forces were concentrated, including ground troops, naval and air fleets, in order to win back the territories they had seized from the Japanese. And one more circumstance, which officially Russian historians often bypass. This is lend-lease, without which the Red Army would hardly have overcome the crisis of 1941 and achieved a strong turning point in the battle with the invaders in a year and a half or two.

Why, then, could the Red Army, which had an overwhelming advantage both in people and in military equipment, be unable to cope with the enemy for so long? I will begin with the fact that, in fact, only the very first successes of the Germans can be explained by surprise. In Russia, they like to give data that on the very first day of the war, the Germans destroyed almost 6,300 Soviet aircraft. The suddenness cannot explain it. It turns out that after the first blow, Stalin still had enough aircraft left to avoid such heavy losses. In total, during the war, the total irretrievable losses of the Soviet Air Force at the front amounted to about 75.2 thousand combat aircraft. The Luftwaffe lost 5.6 times less combat vehicles - about 13.5 thousand. The ratio is similar in terms of tank losses. And in terms of people, the irretrievable losses of the Red Army are almost 2-3 times higher than the losses of the Wehrmacht.

I would like to note one more fact of the real contribution of the Allies to the Victory - the destruction by their strategic aviation of all enemy capabilities for creating atomic weapons. This is a plant for the production of heavy water in Norway, and uranium mines in Saxony and the Czech Republic, this is the transformation into ruins of a center in Dahlem, near Berlin, where many years of unsuccessful research in the field of creating an atomic bomb was carried out under the guidance of the eminent scientist Heisenberg. ..

' "Obanglo-American historiography of the Second World War" Pr: //1\$ops.ga/book\$/em/00/500/20000025/5:060.5Wit]

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It is sometimes ridiculous to read in the Russian press that the Germans surrendered their cities to the Allied troops by telephone. The memoirs of Dwight Eisenhower, General Bradley, Field Marshal Montgomery tell in detail and truthfully about the stubborn nature of the fighting in Western Europe by the Wehrmacht. Until the last days of the war, the German army in the West fought with the stubbornness of the doomed. In many of their units were concentrated SS-fanatics with the right to shoot privates in the event of a retreat.'

Not to mention natural obstacles, and there were more of them on the Western Front than on the Eastern Front, the allied armies twice fought their way through the defensive structures created with great tactical and engineering skill. "In the annals of military history, the breakthrough through the Western Wall, or, in other words, Siegfried's line of defense, will remain an outstanding page (Eisenhower, p. 504).

Now let's draw the reader's attention to specific facts...

On the Western Front, the density of German troops was more than twice as high as on the Eastern Front, including weapons and equipment, which complicated the tactical capabilities of the Allied forces. The Germans in the West had at their disposal the Atlantic Wall and the Siegfried Line, albeit incomplete, but consisting of long-term fortifications, while in the East such fortifications were found only in East Prussia. The allies who landed in Normandy immediately had to deal with selected German troops: there were the SS Panzer Corps, the Zapad Panzer Group, the 5th Panzer Army, etc.

Since the Normandy landings (June 6 to August 11, 1944), American, British and Canadian troops have lost 170,000 men killed, wounded or missing. Difficult for the same period was

| Eisenhower D. Crusade to Europe. Smolensk: Rus sich. 2000; Montgomery. Memoirs of a Field Marshal. M.: Publishing house "Izograph" and "Eksmo", 2004.

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German losses were from 200 to 300 thousand soldiers and officers. These figures testify to the cruel bloody battles of the allied forces with the Wehrmacht on the Western Front.

It is known that immediately after the landing in Normandy, the SS Panzer Corps from Poland was transferred to the Western Front. This greatly facilitated the task of the Soviet troops in Byelorussia. The emergency transfer of significant

Noah part of the front-line fighter aviation in Normandy. In the early days of 1944, on D-Day, there were 288 German fighters in the West, 550 on the Eastern Front. Another 250 fighters were in the Mediterranean, the Balkans and Norway. Finally, 1179 vehicles were part of the Reich air defense and fought exclusively with the Anglo-American aviation.

On June 22, 1944, the day the Soviet offensive in Belarus began, only 44] fighters remained on the Eastern Front, 704 on the Western Front, 338 on the others, and 538 in the German air defense. As noted by German memoirists (their testimonies are collected in book by Hitler's former personal translator Paul Schmidt (under the pseudonym Paul Karel) "Eastern Front"), it was the absence of the Luftwaffe in the air, along with the overwhelming superiority of Soviet troops in tanks, that led to such a rapid defeat of Army Group Center. The allies in Normandy had almost ten times superiority in aviation and three times in tanks over the enemy. At the same time, it is often forgotten that in the first weeks of fighting with the Germans, Allied aircraft had to be based across the English Channel.

Until the end of the war, supply remained the main problem for the Allied armies in the West. Interruptions in the supply of fuel and ammunition often reduced the balance of the allies. During the fighting in Germany, American aircraft daily delivered 2,000 tons of cargo to their advancing armies. About the same was the Soviet superiority on the Eastern Front in 1944-1945.

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The whole question is who used their capabilities more efficiently - the allies, who lost no less dead than the German units opposing them and took an order of magnitude more prisoners, or the Red Army, which laid ten of its own for each killed German soldier. The ratio of irretrievable losses of officers of the Ground Forces on the Eastern Front from June 1941 to the end of 1944 is indicative. During this period, 65,200 German officers and 784,000 Soviet officers died or went missing (with the exception of the political, legal and administrative staff represented in the Wehrmacht by officials). This gives a ratio of 12:1.

The opening of the Second Front, where a third of the reserve German Ground Forces were diverted, played a decisive role in the Soviet successes of 1944 and 1945. During this period, the Eastern Front practically lost German aviation and any reserves to repel Soviet attacks.

Unfortunately, many Russians, especially modern youth, think something like this: "When all the combat-ready units of the Wehrmacht were ground in the East, then

the elite troops of the Allies easily broke the weak German formations in the West in 1944-1945. The main work has already been done by the Russians in the East.

The opening of the second front led to a radical change in the course of hostilities on land. Russian official historians, speaking of the second front, are trying to reduce its significance to zero. So, in 1944, his discovery allegedly could no longer affect the outcome of the war!!

The Western Allies bore the brunt of the air war. Two thirds of the irretrievable losses in the personnel of the Luftwaffe suffered in the fight against the Western allies. As for the war at sea, practically the entire German, Italian and Japanese fleet perished in the fight against the Anglo-American Navy and aviation.

Shestakov V. A., Chernov M. M., Vyazemsky E. E. History of the fatherland. XX century. M.: Education, 2000. S. 233.

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Allied bombings slowed down the pace of growth in German military production, practically paralyzing, in particular, the implementation of the German atomic project, and in the last six months of the war they achieved a reduction of 30-40% in fuel production. By the end of 1944, the German railway transport was practically paralyzed. Synthetic fuel production fell from 316,000 tons in May to 17,000 tons in September. As a result, neither aviation nor tank divisions had enough fuel.

In Russian school textbooks and solid scientific works, the story of the successes of the Red Army in the second half of 1944 is conducted without any connection with the actions of the Allies. And in scientific, or rather pseudoscientific, works of recent years, everything is turned upside down: "The success of the Allied landing operation Overlord, which began on June 6, 1944 on the Western Front, was made possible largely due to the actions of the Soviet fronts in Belarus" (E. N. Kulikov, M. Yu. that the landing in Normandy took place 16 days before the start of the Soviet offensive in Belorussia.

It is no coincidence that the Germans carried out the only strategic offensive operation of the last year of the war against the Anglo-American troops in the Ardennes, and not against the Red Army. The relatively shallow depth of the Western Theater opened up the chances of achieving decisive success in the course of one operation, while the vast expanses of the Eastern Front did not give such chances.

By the way, another legend is connected with the Ardennes - that

Stalin, at the request of Churchill, would have accelerated the offensive of the Red Army in order to save the allies. He moved it from January 20 to January 12, 1945, about which he informed the British Prime Minister. Only in the 1990s, historians revealed that the plan approved by Zhukov on December 29, 1944 with the concentration of troops of the 1st Belorussian Front

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He called for the start of the offensive on January 8, 1945, but due to bad weather, which limited aviation operations, it had to be postponed. Churchill's letter to Stalin mentioned the Ardennes, but it contained only a request for information about Soviet military plans, and by no means a "plea" for help. Stalin then pretended to be ready to sacrifice the lives of Soviet soldiers for the sake of allied interests, knowing full well that the offensive should begin around January 12th.

Former Hitlerite Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop cited three main reasons for Germany's defeat: unexpected resistance from the Red Army, Lend-Lease supplies to the USSR, and Western Allied air superiority.

Could the Soviet Union fight Germany one on one without American gasoline and aluminum, explosives and copper, radio stations and Studebakers, food, machine tools, ships ... In the fight against Anglo-American aircraft, the Germans lost two thirds of their combat aircraft, as well as almost all submarines and all large surface ships.

The bombing of German territory by Allied aviation during the war years was paid at a high price. The British lost about 12 thousand aircraft during the five years of the war in Europe. Mostly bombers. The Americans suffered even greater losses in aviation, since their "Flying Fortresses" bombed Germany, unlike the British, military installations and cities, in the daytime. The air war with Germany cost the Allies about 150,000 men killed, wounded, captured and missing. Each of the giant aircraft cost more than 6 fighters. The Americans lost over 1,000 Flying Fortresses. One of the reasons for their high losses was due to the fact that the armadas of these aircraft

'Joachim Ribbentrop. Memoirs and last notes (from his heritage published by Anneliese von Ribbentrop). Moscow: Thought, 1996.

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flew to Germany without fighter escort.

(Allied airfields were across the English Channel).

The reader can get a lot of information about the Western Front by referring to the book of Siegfried Wesphal. "Chapters 7, 8, 9 (pp. 206-256) are of particular interest. The general highly appreciates Churchill's plan - a landing on the Adriatic, which helped speed up the end war (Cp. 255). We learn that as a result of the destruction of the railway network in Germany by Allied strategic aviation, the transfer of one division (1944) from the Eastern Front to the Western took four weeks instead of one earlier. The author notes that the impact of the Allied air fleet more significantly upset the balance at the front than "the indecisive masses of Russian soldiers" (p. 253).

"After the United States entered the war," the author points out, "the balance of power shifted sharply in the direction of the enemy" (p. 252). Ves fal examines in detail the battle of the Wehrmacht with the American troops in March-April 1945.

Russian official historians try to hush up the superiority of German military equipment, especially in the final stage of the war.

The "Royal Tiger" won the duel not only with the "thirty-four", but also with the latest Soviet heavy tank I-2. The 88-mm gun of the "Tiger" hit the armor of the IS at a distance at which its 122-mm gun could not destroy a German tank. The latest modification of the German fighter "Fokes-Wulf-190", often used as an attack aircraft, surpassed all Soviet fighters of that time in its combat and flight qualities. At the end of the war, the Germans managed to establish mass production of the Me-262 jet fighter and V-1 and V-2. In the USSR, jet aircraft appeared only after the war, and that was largely due to three

Morozov A. Unknown second front. "Our History", No. 11 (998), November 2004.

"Siegfried Wesphal. The German Army on the Western Front. Memoirs of the Chief of the General Staff (1939-1945). M.: Tsentrpoligraf Publishing House, 2007. S. 201-203.

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fake German documentation and German designers exported to the Union and the subsequent theft of Anglo-American scientific and technical secrets by Soviet intelligence. It was the same with the atomic bomb, rocket weapons, and the latest submarines copied from the last German submarines.

The Red Army did not have strategic aviation until the end of the war. It is no coincidence that after the war, all over Europe, special Soviet teams collected damaged

"Flying Fortresses" is a fact that you can't escape.

In Soviet times, we were taught at school that the war against the Nazi plague was won by the heroic Soviet people, perhaps with some help from the valiant French pilots of the Normandie-Niemen air regiment. I don't remember if American Lend-Lease assistance was mentioned in school textbooks, but, in any case, the opening of the second front was covered almost ironically - they say, Churchill and Roosevelt, whom Stalin asked to open a second front in 1942, finally gathered with forces in the summer of 1944, when the defeat of Germany was sealed by the victories of the Red Army.

The history is amazing. Today in Russian schools teachers tell their students the same things that they told our children after the war. To be more precise, teachers in Putin's Russia are forced to say so...

"Courage is a great property of the soul; the people marked by him can be proud of themselves.

N.M. Karamzin

Chapter Hexadeciate

HOW COMRADE STALIN STOLEN THE
VICTORY. SELECTED NOTES

The main myth of the war

The day of the victorious end of the war has truly become a national holiday. How much suffering the Soviet people endured, how many sacrifices they made on the altar of Victory, only God knows. Unfortunately, the statistics of the war are far from the truth to this day. One of the notable reasons is for the capture of the Victory, which belonged to the people, by the dictator to the applause of his subjects. How did this event happen?

Before the cannons had time to fall silent, a fantastic glorification of the main winner, the Generalissimo, unfolded in the country. The press, radio, and the party apparatus began to briskly paint pictures of the grandiose military events that had just taken place in their own ideological fashion. It turns out that only "He" defeated Nazi Germany. One "He" ingeniously, knowing everything, foresaw and took into account. One "He" developed an ingenious strategy for Victory.

This myth dominated Russia until "He" died, almost eight years after the end of the war.

"How could Stalin find himself in the role of a great commander, become a hero of an imaginary world?" Yuri Primakov asks a question. And he answers: "He himself appointed himself the hero and creator of the October Revolution, the hero of the Citizens

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war. Was he sure that this trick would also be successful? ..".

Excuse me, what did we, front-line soldiers, from marshals to platoon commanders, millions of ordinary people, do in this case? Where are the allies? Everyone, everyone - to the backyard, out of history!

All front-line soldiers - so we were told - must clearly understand that war is a thing of the past. The state will take care of the dead, let's think about the living. The main thing is to get down to the restoration of the devastated country as soon as possible. As for ideology, one should firmly remember "ten Stalinist blows" as the decisive condition for victory. Throw 1941 out of your head, learn Comrade Stalin's book "On the Great Patriotic War"? By the way, I usually kept that book in a duffel bag behind my back. Somehow, having taken it out, I found that it was pierced through and through by a small fragment of a mine. Lucky as they say...

Meanwhile, the situation with the trench soldiers and officers who returned from the war turned out to be much more complicated than the party officials imagined. It was said that Stalin looked askance at the front-line soldiers, did not like them, did not believe them, rather, he assumed a potential traitor in everyone. For this, he believed, there were strong foundations.

NIA.

"He" did not forget the beginning of the war, when, in fact, the Red Army, as he believed, "betrayed" him, and when the catchphrase appeared at the end of the war: "Moscow's main mistake was that it allowed Ivan to look at Europe, and Europe look at Ivan. And how not to recall the Decembrist movement?

Was the leader wrong in his ideas about the front-line soldiers? Probably not. Those who went through the war at the forefront and survived, those who visited European countries, already perceived life in their homeland differently than before. Moreover,

Yuri Primakov. Stalin as a Great Commander: A Convenient Myth.
U\uoPA \$oc1a\$E meze 12/13/2005.

* Help: the book was reprinted 6 times and printed more than a million on copies. (Author's note)

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to become understanding on this point, higher education was not required.

The main thing is that people have lost their fear! They came from the war as if reborn, with a new vision of the environment, with new feelings, fresh thoughts, gained confidence and the right - as the majority believed - to independent views and actions.

With what lofty feelings the front-line soldiers returned from the war! We are winners! From now on, people considered the war the most significant event in their lives ... Everything that was before it and became then is not important: both good and bad. There, at the front, all perceived life was natural, aggravated by the constant proximity to death. And at the same time there, having escaped for the first time from the circle of the totalitarian system, the soldier felt like a man... With an open soul, he experienced a high feeling of joy. There I realized that the Motherland is not the Kremlin, but its own home, its own family, and he will certainly protect it!

They courageously, often looking death in the face, won back from the Germans their native Fatherland, so mediocre and criminally given to them. Did the front-line soldiers understand, through whose fault so many tragic events happened that they might not have happened? As far as I remember, not all, and some of us sometimes even looked for excuses for "He". But the dazzling triumph of the Victory did not completely overshadow the eyes of many. They returned with well-deserved military awards, dreams of a new, more intelligently organized life. Wasn't that why so much blood was shed?

It turned out differently. Not everything came true, about which they thought and dreamed so willingly and cordially.

The capital greeted the front-line soldiers with ringing, joyful songs, music, lush flowers, a sea of smiles. This whole cascade of sincere, cordial greetings touched the hearts of the winners to tears.

But very soon, in the course of everyday life, they felt that there was a strong discord with yesterday's thoughts around them.
mami.

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The clouds were gathering. From what? Many actions of the authorities throughout the country humiliated people, turned their hopes into illusions, yesterday's valor into a chimera, which led to immorality in society.

After the victory over the monstrous regime of Hitler, the front-line soldiers, returning home, from the very first steps faced the most disgusting features of the Stalinist regime. And every time they understood that in many ways these features

repeat one to one fascism, with which they fought for so many years and completely destroyed. Therefore, naturally, the life going on around created a feeling of the duality of the Victory, which especially affected the youth. Why is this happening? This question is like a thread - just pull, and the whole ball will begin to unwind. And we will learn the truth about many mediocre and bloody battles that the American military historian David Glantz attributed to the forgotten ones. Because the truth about the causes of the defeats of the Red Army was carefully concealed for many years.

Only twenty years after the war did the party leaders decide to sum up the first historical results of the war. Of course, in the prevailing idiotic spirit. For twenty years, from 1973 to 1982, the fundamental work "On the History of the Second World War" was published - twelve volumes. It is hard to believe, but this grandiose writing - the brainchild of 300 academicians, generals, historians - actually turned out to be cheap propaganda and a collection of falsified or invented facts and events. I will give just one example.

Believing in the seriousness of the intentions of the authors of this publication, he subscribed to it and gradually received all twelve volumes. However, very soon I considered that I was frivolous but believed the compilers of the military encyclopedia. When the last volume came out of print, I collected them all, carefully tied them up with a string, and took all the books to a second-hand bookshop. The seller, seeing what I brought, laughed and pointed to the shelves, completely crammed with the same

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books-bricks, like mine, but brought earlier me.

Official historians, on instructions from above, deftly falsified the various stages of the war. And, yes, it consisted primarily in dictatorial thinking, in the miscalculations of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief and his brave and capable, but infinitely cruel and ambitious military commanders, who sent thousands of people to slaughter, to certain death, although this could often have been avoided. . To take the village "at any cost" was the typical wording of the military order of those years.

The highest sense of military duty led the soldiers to more and more new attacks. It so happened that after the battle only a few people remained alive from the battalion. Truly, my generation is "a generation cut like grass!" Out of every hundred people, only three returned.

On instructions from above, the front-line soldiers became the "object" of the authorities' attention. Let me give you an example related to me. One day Veruha came up to me in the yard. That was the name of the woman who cleaned the front door in the house where we lived. She took me aside and quietly asked:

"What do you want me to say? They asked about you. They ordered to stare. I was confused at first. Painfully unexpected and unpleasant news. When he came to his senses, he joked in response: "Tell me, mother, that I'm a good guy and will soon become a crocodile" ... Now Veruha looked at me inquisitively: "How is that?" she asked.

The next day I went in the morning to the Crimean bridge and, catching the moment when there were no people around, you threw a German officer's dagger wrapped in a rag and a collection of Wehrmacht awards. My comrade Yevgeny Prokhorov - we studied together at the Polygraphic Institute - was not lucky. He brought back a German Walther pistol from the war. The man forgot to lock the door to the room where he lived. At that time, he carried out monthly cleaning and oiling of weapons. The neighbor entered the Prokhorovs without knocking and, immediately frozen in place with surprise, became sycophantic.

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pour Zhenya for courage. He knew that Prokhorov served in intelligence. A week later, the scout was "swept up". In accordance with the Law, he was sentenced to five years in the camps for illegal possession of weapons.'

Many front-line soldiers brought back from the war a variety of "souvenirs" as a memory of the past: pistols, daggers, a rifle bayonet, a collection of envelopes, postcards, stamps, coins, coats of arms of cities, a field map, officer's binoculars, beer mugs, figurines, a camera, a mouthpiece. harmonica - not to list everything.

One soldier brought his "suicide bomber" from the front. More than once, his comrades advised him to throw away this thing, which could supposedly invite death. But the soldier remained alive, although he was wounded twice.

The authorities reported upstairs about the seizure of weapons from the former army. But you can't follow everyone. I will cite an interesting case that was told to me. To hoist the victory banner, 60 flags were made in advance at the Reichstag. They were in all the battalions that approached the building in Berlin. One of the banners was gone: an officer stole it and, returning to his homeland, sold it to the local museum as the "Victory Banner". The scam was uncovered, and the former lieutenant was imprisoned along with the museum worker, who shared the fee with him.

In the first post-war years, Yuri Bondarev's novel "Silence" was published. Liked the book. It seemed that a new front-line writer appeared who told about the fate of a young man who brought a pistol from the war and paid a great price for its use in life. Bondarev wrote many books. Most of all I liked his novel The Battalions Ask for Fire. He was screened. TO; Unfortunately, the writer turned out to be a bad man, power-hungry, who played a far from noble role in the years of

restructuring.

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Reference: Yevgeny Prokhorov served three years, returned home, graduated from the institute, defended his dissertation. And he taught textology at Moscow University.
(Author's note)

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The war had not yet ceased, but on the personal instructions of "His", the Smershevites, with the help of political agencies, overhauled the trench army, revealing the "counter-revolutionaries". It is hard to believe, but in the victorious 1945, the army withdrew many brave, experienced front-line soldiers who, in the opinion of the authorities, were too independent, became obstinate and proud. I will add to what has been said - I do not remember a case when any of the commanders, commissars, privates stood up for our brother.

In the political department where I served, they took away a private - Simka Kuzyaev. The guy liked to joke. During a search of personal belongings, a diary was found. The head of the political department, Colonel Shilovich, gathered all the officers and warned: "Do not interfere!"

At the end of the war, a stunning episode occurred with the prisoners of the Red Army. All of a sudden, they were all released, handed rifles and sent to storm Berlin. Few are left alive. But after the war, they tried to catch them and send them to the Gulag - to hold out until the end of their term.

By the beginning of demobilization (1946), a secret decree was issued prohibiting front-line soldiers after the end of the war to settle wherever they wished. All those demobilized from the army, regardless of rank and rank, were obliged to return to the places from which they were drafted into the army - this is how millions of people were first of all scattered around the country. Return the peasants to the countryside, prevent the flight of rural youth, close the road to those who would like to settle in large cities, not to mention the capital.

I will share with the reader how that decree resonated in my life. In June 1946 I was demobilized. I came to my parents in Moscow and a few days after my arrival I went to the district police station to obtain a civil passport. It is about this document that the words are written: "Without a piece of paper - you are an insect, but with a piece of paper - a person!"

In the Soviet Union without this "paper" you will not be accepted

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whether to work, not to get married, not to be buried

father or mother would not be admitted to study. Meanwhile, let us remember how our great poet, Vladimir Mayakovsky, glorified the "sickle and hammered"...

Getting ready to go to the police, I put on an officer's tunic, though without shoulder straps, put on my orders and medals. It turned out to be a decent iconostasis. The police officer took no notice of him. After reading my application, he handed me the text of the decree, and then, when I read it, he asked: "Where were you called up?"

"In Kyshtym," I replied. Without letting me finish saying that I was there by accident, he resolutely declared: "Go there. There they will give you a passport, register you, and live to your health." It looks like our conversation ended there. To all my arguments, he only silently nodded at the document with the decree lying on the table.

The confused winner came home. Appeal to the city police ended with the same refusal. I half CHIL "from the gate turn." What to do? Told my mom. She promised to help. True, a week later she advised me to go back to the same police rank. A day later, I received a brand new Soviet passport, then I was registered at the Pope's Square, and I became a citizen of Moscow.

Ten years later, my mother revealed to me the secret of my passport "magic". It turns out that the passport officer of our house was close to the police head of the passport office. She asked her mother to bring her home two bags of market potatoes. Mom fulfilled her "request boo", for this she pawned her wedding ring in a pawnshop.

When my mother came to the passport officer to say that "everything is in order," the girl told her this: "Don't blame my Anisim. He is a decent man, but the authorities make him behave this way: too many Jews have come to the capital. Although your son is a Jew, he is a well-deserved man." What could her mother say to her?

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Butt on the head

The war was gradually fading into the past. People, as best they could, adapted to the peaceful life that finally came. The peasants, after groaning and crying with their mothers, fathers and grandfathers, set to work on the "old" accursed collective farm life. What was the village like in the first postwar years? Twenty-three years after the end of the war, the so-called rural writers V. Rasputin, V. Belov, F. Abramov spoke about this truthfully...

Numerous courses were opened throughout the country to master the most necessary professions. Deployed tech-

distance education, secondary and higher, on-the-job. Opened secondary schools for adults. Millions of front-line soldiers were driven into the system of political education.

The country was destroyed. Much has been said about this and enough. Figures and facts are widely known. Three million prisoners of war, Germans and Japanese, rebuilt the destroyed cities and villages. In the most difficult areas, former Russian prisoners of war and thousands of master baiters, assembled into worker battalions, worked.

Briefly about the first steps after demobilization from the army. Entered to study at the Moscow Correspondence Polygraphic Institute', at the editorial department. Why in absentia? I was supposed to study and work. However, my father told me: "As long as I can, I will help you, the main thing is to study and find a profession as soon as possible. You have earned this right." And I tried to learn.

My classes can sometimes be compared to a marathon. I mastered subject after subject and passed tests and exams ahead of schedule, course after course. He listened to lectures at the university, attended speeches by prominent scientists at the Polytechnic Museum. But the main place of my life in those years was

'Reference: in 1960 the Moscow Correspondence Polygraphic Institute was merged with the Moscow Polygraphic Institute.

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The oldest Moscow library is Historichka, in Starospassky Lane.

Exactly at 9 a.m. I entered the building of the Istorichka with the first readers and left it with the last.

For three years I have read a bunch of the best books of world and Russian classics. My idols were Stendhal, Balzac, Gomas Mann, and, of course, Pushkin and Gogol. I began to collect my library, but it turned out to be incredibly difficult. The bookstores sold mainly propaganda literature glorifying the party and Stalin. It was then possible to buy a decent book only on the black market, but I could not afford it. By chance I was lucky: I bought my first book cheaply - a collection of Chekhov's stories - from a drunken peasant.

Later I found out that in Leipzig, in one of the centers of German printing, a publishing center had been set up, which published many millions of books. This is a special topic.

I managed to take about two courses a year. Then such "free hearing" was allowed. So I graduated from the institute in 1950 in three and a half years. Only in my last year before the state exams did I get a job

to work as a junior editor at Promstroyizdat - there was such a publishing house.

During the years of study at the institute, he became friends with front-line soldiers: Isaak Sokolsky and Tolya Konopelkin. We spent many hours together, studied together, sometimes worked together, were on duty at night on Kuznetsky (that was the name of the lane where the Moscow subscription shop was located) in order to be the first to get there and subscribe. For example, to Dahl's dictionary or Lermontov's three-volume book. In order to earn some small money - to help the house or to buy books, cinema tickets, theater - the three of us went at night to unload wagons with vegetables, participated in extras at the Mosfilm film studio, cleaned parks and boulevards from garbage, leaves. They began to write a little in the Moskovsky Komsomolets newspaper, translated from German ... At first, I often went to a flea market in Moscow and sold everything that I brought with me from

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army: an overcoat, a warm hat, boots, a belt, a camera, a watering can ...

Since 1946, sudden changes have come in the life of front-line soldiers. First, cash bonuses to orders and material benefits due to order bearers were removed. For example, free round-trip travel by train or steam. This event excited the minds of people and gave rise to various rumors. Everyone understood the difficult economic situation of the state after the war. Address us honestly and openly, I am sure that not a single front-line soldier would be against it. And it had to be done voluntarily. Possibly, temporarily. There must always be honest legal and moral relations between the state and its citizens. In this case, Stalin's act turned out to be immoral, and so did many of my comrades. In protest, many front-line soldiers stopped wearing orders and medals, including ia.

On December 23, 1947, "suddenly" Stalin canceled the official celebration of Victory Day, including a day off. "We need to restore the country, and not get carried away with fireworks, celebrations, fireworks and not waste time on meetings, trips to the battlefields" - this is how the authorities explained to us, as always, the "wise" Stalinist decision.

For almost 20 years, the Soviet Union did not celebrate the Victory Day at the state level. This does not mean that we have forgotten our bright day - May 9th. They gathered after work wherever possible: in parks, on the boulevards, outside the city, on the embankments and, of course, at home in the kitchens. Newspapers on that day published separate front-line memoirs, mostly generals. And, of course, in the celebratory issue with a portrait of the Supreme Commander, journalists savored the Victories, and not a word about the defeats, which, it seemed, did not exist.

Thus, more and more blank spots appeared in the history of the war. Songs of the war years sounded on the radio, excerpts from the works of M. Sholokhov, A. Tvardovsky, A. Tolstoy, I. Ehrenburg, poems by K. Simonov were read. Big

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radio dishes devoted a fraction of their time to the Generalissimo su, songs and poems about "Him" were performed endlessly.

We lived like this for nearly two decades, without an official holiday. In 1965, the new authorities came to their senses: L.I. Brezhnev returned the holiday to the victorious people. In the same year, in honor of the 20th anniversary of the Victory, the medal "For Victory in the Great Patriotic War" was established with the image of the Generalissimo on it. Many of us did not wear this medal.

It is known that L.I. Brezhnev met at the Central Theater of the Soviet Army with veterans of the 18th Guards Army, where during the war he led the army's political department. During this meeting, he called the front-line soldiers "the golden capital of the country." We never heard such words from Stalin and, surprisingly, from Khrushchev. It is not clear why N.S. Khrushchev did not officially restore the holiday - "Victory Day", especially after the XX Congress of the CPSU and the complete capture of the party and state

authorities.

In the first post-war years, before the eyes of my generation, an unthinkable event took place that darkened the hearts. At that time in Moscow, at the intersections of main streets, at the entrance and exit of metro stations, in commuter trains, one could see war invalids: armless, legless, blind, in tattered clothes. They traveled on self-made board scooters, under which rollers were attached. The state did not take care of its war invalids.

On one of the usual days, former front-line soldiers, and now human "stumps", suddenly disappeared. Where did they go? The seal was silent. Silent and power. Who ordered these unfortunate people, many with military awards, to actually be left to their own devices? Some of the high officials drunkenly chatted aloud, as if "thank God!" eyes styles the city from "drunken bastards". When I heard such a 'statement', I thought to myself: 'Perhaps these 'drunk bastards' lost their legs or arms defending Moscow.'

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They also talked about the fact that all the disabled throughout the country, on the same day and hour, were gathered for the state

the military bill was sent by plane to the island of Valaam, located near Leningrad on Lake Ladoga, where they were attached to a special hospital.

Probably some small part of the invalids were hidden on Valaam. But it's still hard to believe. Where do they all go?

It seems that the state has done a noble deed. It provided the unfortunate with medical assistance, surrounded them with attention, helped to reduce their helplessness, and provided material support. But this was not done voluntarily, without any publicity.

Once I visited the island, visited the cemetery where the disabled were buried. But to get to the mystery around their disappearance and failed. Thanks to the writer Yuri Nagibin. He wrote a talented story about a dramatic meeting after many years of a legless front-line soldier on the island of Valaam with his pre-war lover. Modern Russian society has completely thrown out of its past the tragic fate of the invalids of the Great Patriotic War. |

The front-line soldiers were tormented by fragmentary information about the terrible fate of former Russian prisoners of war, as well as the situation of the "returnees". Stalin dealt cruelly with the witnesses of his own shame in the 41st. Much, or rather, almost nothing, we knew. This topic was closed for many years both under Stalin and after him. And to this day, Russia has not fully opened the archives that could describe the picture of the tragic events that took place.

AI Solzhenitsyn was the first of the Russian writers, we must give him his due, who spoke about Stalin's agreement with the allies on the forcible return of Russian prisoners of war to Russia and on the Vlasov movement.

But the Gulag Archipelago, translated into Russian, appeared in Russia in the early 1990s. In the West, as early as the 1950s, works were published telling about Russian prisoners of war and the Vlasov movement. For pro

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In the past, a whole library of studies, collected archival materials, and memoirs has been published:'.

A major event in life was the 30th anniversary of the Victory Day. From this period, the word "front-line soldier" was replaced by the WORD "veteran". The state began to present food "orders" to veterans. They gave us a "book of the wind is new." They began to build factories for the production of prostheses, opened workshops for the manufacture of orthopedic shoes, and crutches of various sizes finally appeared in pharmacies.

Army and divisional councils of veterans were created. For about two years I was a member of the Council of Veterans of the 220th Division. What were we doing? They congratulated them on their birthday, gathered veterans in Moscow on Victory Day, visited schools where they told the children about past military events. We went to the 30th anniversary of the liberation of the capital of Belarus - Minsk. In 1961, they visited the city of Yelets, where the 220th division was formed in 1941. At a meeting with veterans, the local military commissar Ras said that forty people remained alive from the first division of 20 thousand people.

It seemed interesting to me to talk about how our former division was assembled. Vasily Ragulin from Luhansk (formerly Voroshi lovgrad), my fighting friend, spent almost eighteen years searching for the surviving soldiers of the 220th division. He established written contact with them. On May 9, 1975, 146 former officers and soldiers arrived in Moscow at his invitation. We came to the park, then the Central Military Museum. On the stage, in the center, stood an officer in military uniform with a poster in his hands: "I am Vasya Ra Gulin."

What happened here is hard to convey. Vasya was picked up, thrown up, hugged, kissed, not without tears.

Since that day, we have been gathering in Moscow every year. But, alas,

' Hoffman I. Vlasov against Stalin. The tragedy of the Russian liberation army in 1944-1945. M.: Astrel, 2009.

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fewer fellow soldiers came to each new meeting. The removal of state benefits from government awards was the first sign in the humiliation of front-line soldiers. At first, we did not expect that the "awards era" would end with a complete devaluation of awards. Especially in the 60s and 70s. In practice, military awards were defiled from above, turned into an object of children's amusements. They were sold for pennies on the black market. They began to issue them for the years of being in the army. For 15 years of service they received the Order of the Red Star, for 20 years of service - the Order of the Red Banner of War, for 25 years - the Order of Lenin.

And the second time, in order to somehow downplay the indignation of the veterans, the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee L.I. Brezhnev, who was awarded the Order of Victory, gave all of us the most honorable order of front-line soldiers - the Order of the Patriotic War. Having adopted the Decree on awarding the Order of the Patriotic War of the first or second degree, they issued all veterans who had medals "For Military Merit", "For Victory over Germany" or "Victory over Japan" and certificates of injury.

The Order of the Patriotic War, first and second class, was the most honorary order during the war years. This order was awarded only to those who were really at the forefront, even at the headquarters of the warring division it was impossible to receive this award. Therefore, it is no coincidence that many of the front-line veterans refused to receive a "badge" in military offices. |

A shameful fact that needs to be told about when, on the orders of Stalin in 1947, KGB officers were awarded military orders for the murder of Solomon Mikhoels. Received orders: Lieutenant General Tsanava - Order of the Red Banner, Colonels Shubnikov and Lebedev and Senior Lieutenant Kruglov - Order of the Patriotic War of the first degree. Such criminal cases of rewarding in Stalin's time were often carried out in secret from the people'.

| Kostyrchenko G. V. Stalin's secret policy. Power and anti-Semitism. M.: International relations. 2003, p. 392.

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A lot didn't work out. Much, much that was thought about, was dreamed of by trench officers and soldiers. Let me sum up the snippets of front-line conversations. First of all, the life of the village, and this would mean the transfer of land to the peasants in private possession, however, rather its return, taken from them by the Bolsheviks after 1917. This includes the liquidation of collective farms, the reduction of taxes on peasant households. "Look what the men wanted!" officials argued. One of the men once boasted: "For a holy cause, I would take off my shoes and with bare feet would slowly walk across a freshly plowed field. And she, the earthling, as if born again, cheered up and would easily wake up under my feet.

The believers, and there were so many of them among the front-line soldiers, believed that they would give a will to the cross.

Front-line "intellectuals" talked about the advent of the liberal era, about the cessation of repression, "from fear to freedom." They growled in response: "Look what Intel wanted

ligntics"

A little about rural life after the war

The village in the first post-war years looked like a dead man. During the war time, the land largely dried up, turned brown, turned brown, tractors, cars "were ordered to live long." If there was still at least one thin horse left in the village, it was considered happiness.

Few returned from the war: one or two peasants, and even those were armless or legless. Both of them were considered heroes,

"The first boys in the village"...

The village was without electricity, the peasants lived, like their ancestors, with a torch, and someone with a kerosene lamp. Later, I learned that out of 5,000 restored district printing houses, 4,500 were used by hand.

The "basic labor element" of the village was the female people. On the shoulders of the women lay all the hard rural work. The peasants "climbed" to the authorities and put in the first detachments of the new rural bureaucracy (the chairman of the collective farm, the steam trade, members of the collective farm board, foremen, production manager

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stock, stock. In a word, it turned out the way the proverb developed: "Seven with a spoon, one with a bipod" ...

They lived starving. Everything that they had, and they had little, but still, everything that was possible, the villagers gave to the front. Women were "harnessed" during sowing, harvesting instead of horses. There was only one cow for 50 houses, and sometimes there was nothing to feed it. I was often tormented by the question: what happened to the wealth exported from Germany supposedly as a reparation? It is known that in 1945-1947, that is, in three years, 600,000 horses were exported from East Germany to the Soviet Union, among them heavy horses from Holland, more than half a million other cattle, almost a quarter of a million wheat.

Whom to ask: where did such great wealth go? Was it distributed among the villages? But it didn't work out that way. Many cattle died along the way.

By the way, in some villages that were under the occupier, the land retained its former appearance, let the peasants, and the female half of the village and the youth did not starve. The norms for the delivery of rural products, established by the German army, were lower than under the Soviet regime in collective farm life. Although the Germans retained the capture of the occupied territory, pursuing the goal of harvesting a rich harvest. But they were silent about it, they are silent today.

Stalin decided to give a damn about the hopes of the front-line soldiers and restored the foundations of life in society that existed before the war. What was he afraid of? Why didn't he go towards the people, who deserved a happier fate after the salvation of the Soviet Union, the victorious end of the war.

And why did Napoleon not dare to free the Russian peasants from slavery? And why didn't Hitler liberate the Russian peasants from the yoke of collective farms, didn't go for the creation of national formations in the territory of Russia he had seized, in Ukraine, in the Baltic states, in Belarus? Why was he afraid to hand weapons into the hands of the "anti-Stalinists", and instead destroyed more than two million Russian troops?

Gabriel Popov. War and Truth. The Price of Victory. MeWo!K, from "[46etsu]." S. 29, 2005.

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prisoners? Difficult questions for my entire generation arose already in the early post-war years. To this day, these same questions remain unanswered. However, one thing is clear: this or that dictator turned out to be incapable of doing otherwise. Well, what kind of dictator is he after that?

Having returned the people to the pre-war past, Stalin again doomed millions of people to poverty, a half-starved existence, the absence of adequate housing, life in barracks, basements or in so-called communal apartments. Most of the people received a beggarly wage. Beginning in 1946, party violence began against the spiritual life of society. The process of active degradation of science and education began.

The patient is seen from afar

Back in 1945, Stalin forbade anything to be written or published about military events. Curious little-known memoirs of A.M. Vasilevsky and G.K. Zhukov, which allow us to understand the attitude of the Supreme Commander to the historiography of the just ended war. For many years Vasilevsky did not take up his memoirs. And not only him. Alexander Mikhailovich backed up his considerations with weighty arguments, in particular, by the fact that shortly after the war I.V. Stalin spoke disapprovingly of his memoirs. Vasilevsky then presented the first two memoirs to the Generalissimo. Among them was the collection "The Storming of Berlin", which was created at a time when G.K. Zhukov was still in Germany, at the post of Chief Commander of the Soviet military administration.

Superbly designed, with numerous illustrations, a book of almost 500 pages, of a sick format was published in 1946 and shown to I.V. Stalin. The authors wrote about how they fought, storming the capital of the Nazi Reich, what they saw, felt and experienced. Among the memoirists were soldiers, sergeants, foremen, officers and generals. The illustrations were based on

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original documentary sketches by military artists of the Grekov Studio — L. Golovanov, A. Kokorin, N. Sokolov.

As A.M. Vasilevsky later recalled, Stalin said then that "to write memoirs immediately after great events,

when passions have not yet had time to come into balance and cool down, it is too early that in these memoirs there will not be the proper objectivity. Stalin's behavior is understandable. He obviously thought that memoirs could undermine "the glory of a commander."

What Stalin said to Vasilevsky turned out to be enough to close the doors of publishing houses and magazines for a long time to veterans, heroes of the Patriotic War. Only one thing was decided in those first post-war years - to glorify the dictator, thanks to whom the party and the Soviet people defeated the fascist aggressors and saved the world from the brown plague.

Another little-known historical "picture". In 1946, after the return of G.K. Zhukov from Germany, Stalin instructed the Chekists to keep a vigilant eye on the marshal. Soon they reported to him where his papers were and what they were.

After some time, Stalin called the commander and asked him: "Are you going to write history? No need. Let historians do this when we die." Some wartime Zhukovsky documents were simply "stolen", and the marshal never saw them again.

The book "The Military Economy of the USSR during the Patriotic War" published in 1947 by N.A. Voznesensky cost him his head. Not a single marshal, not a single general, not to mention military historians, dared to write about the war, but praise the Generalissimo - please!

One example: they presented the tragedy of 1941 as a defense strategy - that's what historians then came up with. Moreover, it was categorically forbidden to republish Western historians, generals on the history of the war.

The leader fully took the right to assess the Victory in this world.

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bya. On Stalin's orders, all archives with surviving materials about the war were closed.

What was Stalin afraid of? As if the information of domestic authors, especially Western ones, will bring confusion into the minds of Soviet readers. Indeed, from the first post-war years, we were brought up on the examples of Stalin's victories, where the bloody failures of 1941-1942 did not fit. Therefore, the best books about the Second World War, written in the West, came to the Russian reader only during the period of glasnost and the abolition of censorship, in the 80-90s of the twentieth century, that is, 30-40 years after their publication.

Here are a few examples: Albert Speer "Memoirs" (after 40 years); Kurt Toppelskirch "History of the Second

World War 1939-1945" (after 44 years); Erich Manstein "Lost Victories" (after 29 years), etc.

The fate of the book by B. Müller-Gillen Brandt "The Land Army of Germany 1933-1945" is not without interest. It was translated and published in Russian by two central publishing houses: Foreign Literature (1956) and Voenizdat (1976). However, censorship blotted out from the book any mention of the participation of Soviet people in the war on the side of the Wehrmacht. In 2002, the book was republished, including all the notes in it.

Another amazing example. Former German commanders, participants in the Rzhev epic, published in Germany more than 50 books about their military past. What do we know about them? By chance, one of them ended up in Rzhev. Rzhev Tyane visited Germany in the early 90s and brought home a book by the former commander of the 6th Infantry Division, General Horst Grossman, "Rzhev - the cornerstone of the Eastern Front." Local historians, local historians, journalists Oleg Kondratiev and Leonid Mylnikov in 1996, 40 years after the publication of the book in German, published a small edition of Grossman in Russian.

In the preface to the book by Horst Grossman there are the following lines: "More than half a century has passed since its completion (you are a bit for Rzhev. - B. /.). Unfortunately, the truth about the Battle of Rzhev has not been fully told ... Military historians are silent ... "Che

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honest and sincere words filled with pain for their long-suffering city.

They are silent about the Rzhev battle, and not only about it. Many "orphan" battles did not make it into the "Pantheon of Glory" "Legendary and Invincible", erected by Russian historians back in the 1950s and 1960s. An amazing fact. In the four-volume book about the Great Patriotic War, published in Moscow (2001), try to find the truthful lines about the Crimean catastrophe, about the dramatic battles near Kharkov, about the Rzhev "meat grinder", about the surrender of Kiev and the death of entire armies, etc.

One of the reasons for such ridiculous stubbornness is the unwillingness to abandon the false, with the blessing of the authorities, the so-called official history of the Great Patriotic War, written in the Stalin, Khrushchev and Brezhnev periods. Finally, the unwillingness to touch on the name of I.V. Stalin and the famous Soviet marshals and generals. Meanwhile, weren't they themselves obliged to tell the truth about "how everything actually happened." They didn't tell. And Zhukov, and Konev, and Lelyushenko - the main military leaders in the battle for Rzhev - in their later memoirs, they tried to deftly bypass the entire period of their combat biography that was not pleasant for them: defeats, murders - that's the only way it can be called - ten

kov thousands of soldiers and officers, on the Rzhev-Vyazemsky bridgehead. At the same time, there is nothing less logical than history, from which certain events and facts are forcibly removed, at the request of the ruling power. Restoring the truth is not so easy, especially many years later.

A hitherto unseen event has taken place. The old adage says that history is written by the winners. Wow: Russia has abandoned the real history of the Patriotic War. The defeated, and not alone, began to restore the historical truth of the war in the East.

After the war, it was said that, having become the Minister of Defense in 1955, G.K. Zhukov opened the green light to former military leaders and historians to create a national

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military historiography. Under the General Staff, creative groups were created under the leadership of well-known generals to develop works summarizing the experience of major military operations. After N.S. Khrushchev's vile expulsion of Zhukov from all posts and the dismissal of the marshal, historians began to create an official history of the war in a new form ... "What did they write," wrote G.K. Zhukov - it is impossible to read. It must be written for the new. I haven't been able to write again for so many years! ..

On the basis of the "created" official, actually political history, almost six decades after the end of the war in Russia, mountains of books were printed: fundamental multi-volume works, encyclopedias large and small, monographs, textbooks, reference books, on which several generations of Soviet people, officers, grew up. ..

Meanwhile, it is well known that any half-truth is more dangerous than a lie. For a lie is always easier to recognize than a half-truth. During the entire post-war period of censorship, and its power lasted for more than 40 years, I remember only a single, accidental breakthrough: an attempt to tell the truth about the tragic year of 1941. That was the well-known book by Alexander Nekryk "1941, June 22", which made a lot of noise. After the publication of the book in 1965, the talented historian was driven out of his service and then expelled from the country.

Let's go back to the 40s. Very few actually returned from the war. And the surviving veterans, who entered the fiery lava at the age of 18-19, and some even earlier, proudly and bitterly put on their military orders and medals on Victory Day. The poet said about them:

It's true: there are few of you left, But even
now you can't be counted. No matter how
it twisted or broke,

But you still exist in the world.

It's true there are few of you left

In comparison with the strength of that
living, That once young stood up,
Protecting the Motherland with herself.

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A whole cohort of young writers was captured by the military theme.
Their books were read to holes, passed from hand to hand by CI "for one night",
they were translated into foreign languages. The world learned new names:
Emmanuil Kazakevich, Viktor Nekrasov, later Vasil Bykov, Viktor Astafyev
and many others. Don't list them all! But not only professionals performed
with their works. Many participants in the war, forever shocked by their
experiences, shared their memories of that time.

How not to remember the poignant lines of the poet Yuri Levitansky:

But what if I was there In that formidable
to be or not to be? I almost forgot all this

I want to forget all this.

I don't go to war

She participates in me...

And the gleam of the Eternal
Flame Trembles on my cheekbones.

I can't be excluded

From these years, from that war.
Can't heal me anymore

From that winter, from those snows,

And with that land, and with that winter
Already I can not be separated.

Until those snows, where you can no
longer discern My footprints.

In 1946, Viktor Nekrasov's soldier's book-story "In the trenches of
Stalingrad" was published. A year later, the famous story of Emmanuil
Kazakevich "The Star" was printed. The publication of these books became an
event in the social and literary life of the country...

The press assured the front-line soldiers, eager to write to tell the truth about the war, they say, the people are tired of the war, exhausted, they should be left alone.

Young front-line writers in response to the ideological

' Svirsky G. On the place of execution. Literature of moral resistance 1946-1986. Ed. 2nd, add. Literature of the war 1941-1945. M.: "Kruk", 1998.

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the croaking of party and literary officials, in contrast to the official writers - Pavlenko, Gribachev, Plevoy, Kochetov, entered the fray for the truth. Their voices were heard in workers' clubs, in student auditoriums. Somehow very quickly a whole galaxy of front-line poets was born. And what! Semyon Gudzenko, Alexander Mezhirov, Boris Slutsky, David Samoilov, Yulia Drunina...

In 1945, Semyon Gudzenko responded decisively to party and literary officials in his poem "My Generation":

We do not need to feel sorry
for, After all, we did not feel sorry for anyone ...

In those years, on Saturdays, the assembly hall of the Polygraphic Institute at 4 Sadovaya Street was packed to capacity. Whether they were sitting in armchairs in pairs, on the windowsills, on the stage, on the floor in the aisles.

The poets got up from the chairs located at the back of the stage, one by one, and recited verses from which the heart was captured. Semyon Gudzenko, strong, tall, in a faded tunic, seemed to have just come out of the trench, read three poems: "My generation" (this is about us! - B.G.) and then the verse "Before the attack" sounds and the symbol personal - "We will not die of old age" ... (S. Gudzenko soon died of front-line wounds. - B.G.)

Alexander Mezhirov rises and goes to the edge of the stage. And his voice sounds: "I sleep, putting Sinyavsky swamps under my head, and my feet rest against the banks of the Neva ..."

Here is the poetess Yulia Drunina, who has already become famous, and her voice, it seems, resounds throughout the country:

I'm always sad about my
greatcoat, I see smoky
dreams - No, they didn't
manage to bring me back from the war...

Thunderous applause. The whole hall, rising, greets this amazing, honest poetess, who tragically committed suicide...

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Party criticism strangled and dubbed the literary work of young front-line writers "trenches truth", that is, they say, to see and depict war no higher than the trenches ...

We, the front-line soldiers, were increasingly removed from the Great War, it seemed to many that all the days of the year had been stolen from us, and only one day remained until the meeting of our comrades of the past years - May 9th.

Propagandists, official historians, writers on instructions from above, from the minds of the Soviet people with might and main, you persecuted the "trench truth." Party officials tried to restore their lost leadership positions as soon as possible. The most insignificant disobedience, slight insolence, elementary, quite reasonable, human demands were demagogically rejected.

We have long lived with memories of wartime. They were proud of their generation, who gave their lives for the sake of life on earth. Party criticism roared with anger, pouring slop on the first front-line poets. What were they not accused of? Both in "Remarqueism" and in the absence of heroic pathos.

When we returned from the war, we were shown newsreels of the war years, captured films, patriotic films about the battles won, of course, under the leadership of the Generalissimo... We were regaled with stories and essays about Soviet heroes. (I'm not talking about such "masterpieces" as "The Young Guard" by A. Fadeev, "The Tale of a Real Man" by B. Polevoy.)

Only decades after the end of the war was the ban lifted from front-line topics. "All About the War" went with might and main: on the theater stages, from the movie screen, in print. We, the front-line writers, tried not to miss anything. I loved such "meetings", as it seemed to me, with my hot youth, I tried, once again, to comprehend what I had experienced in the war, to see my peers in certain images. It didn't always turn out that way.

Remembering what you have seen, read and heard about

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Great Patriotic War, I would divide all printed matter into three parts.
Cynical lie:

a classic example is Yu. Ozerov's film epic "Liberation". Half-truth: a classic example is K. Simonov's trilogia "The Living and the Dead". The truth, which painfully long, through the palisades of censorship, KGB interference and unfriendly party criticism, nevertheless reached us. The truth in the works of V. Grossman, V. Bykov, B. Vasiliev, E. Kazakevich exalted the soul.

Since the 1960s memoirs have appeared, thick works of marshals and generals with stories about the history of the past war. They painted the advantages of the socialist system, tried to show Stalin as the greatest commander. Military defeats - and there were many of them, the authors considered as "temporary failures." But the victory, achieved at an incredible price, was painted colorfully.

These books contrasted Party propaganda with "trench literature."

In the same period, many front-line soldiers began writing about the war. Unfortunately, they are usually not printed. They left them to their children and grandchildren. Or handed over to local history museums and libraries for storage. While working on the book "About Lenin" in 1975, librarians told me that in the department of manuscripts of the State Library. V.I. Lenin sent memoirs about the war.

When books and articles by historians appeared, timidly trying to analyze the tragedy of the first half of the war and the price of the Victory, Soviet ideologists put forward the slogan: "Winners are not judged!" And here it is appropriate to recall the words of the oldest Russian writer Lydia Seifullina: "Winners are not judged" - this was invented by a slave. And a friend, brother, peer is obliged to judge the winner, that is, he is obliged to figure out what is true and what is a lie, direct or hidden.

melting."

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Another amazing fact, which cannot be bypassed. When the Great Patriotic War ended, the Generalissimo uttered the number of losses of the Red Army during the war years - 7 million dead. Many, especially those who went through the war, considered Stalin's figures as a swindle. But neither the marshals nor yesterday's officers and soldiers dared to object to the dictator - none of them dared. Yes, and people got used to Stalin's lies, often taking it for the truth. Slowly, very slowly, the false figures named by Stalin, taken from the ceiling, approached the truth, every new ruler in Russia who appeared after Stalin made his own adjustments to the losses.

Almost 50 years later, in 1993, they stopped at 27 mil.

lions. Many modern historians in the West and in Russia believe that Russia lost not much more in World War II. (Dmitry Volkogonov, Boris Kuznetsov, Alexander Yakovlev, etc.) It is known that every year search engines find and find more and more new victims of the war. And there is no end to these terrible finds yet.

Yet why did Stalin determine the losses at 7 million, and not more and not less? It seems to me that the most important thing in this matter for him was not to drop the face of the "genius commander", who cannot lose more than the enemy.

It is clear that neither in 1945 nor in 1946 were there any statistics of the war. But, let us note, it was enough for the Generalissimo to pick up the phone and call the General Staff, where all the information about military losses was concentrated, even if inaccurate information, but still the Generalissimo would have received different results of the losses than he announced. What for?

As a result, Stalin made it impossible to discuss the issue of losses altogether. The most reliable method for estimating losses is the demographic balance method: it compares how many people should have been without taking into account extraordinary losses and how many are left. But for this you need to know how much is actually left. To find out

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that all European countries after the war hastened to conduct a census.

The Central Statistical Office of the USSR also proposed to conduct a one-time accounting of the country's population. The archives preserved a letter from the head of the CSU Starovsky with his note: "Reported personally on 08/29/1947. An order has been received to postpone until the end of the five-year plan. The first official post-war estimate of the population of the USSR was published only in 1956, 1] years after the end of the war.

And the number of losses of the Red Army given by Stalin during the war years raises doubts and makes one think that something was wrong in this Victory, which no one should have known about.

The current authorities in Russia offer their people the following concept: since such huge losses - 27 million, then the enemy was too strong. Therefore, the losses can be justified. And the one who doubts what has been said humiliates the very meaning of the Victory. Moreover, the General Prosecutor's Office of the Russian Federation proposes to "imprison" everyone who doubts or denies the victory of the Soviet Union in the Great Patriotic War.

In conclusion, I will give the floor to the oldest veteran, Leningrad writer Daniil Granin. December

2008 in Moscow, at the international conference "History of Stalinism. Results and problems of the study.

Here is what he said: "It was as if everything was being done to wean the soldiers from their feeling of winners, masters, authors of the Victory. I'm not talking about what was done with those who returned from captivity. Here, in St. Petersburg, the so-called "samovars" - invalids, without a leg or hands, who rode on wooden platforms - were sent to the island of Valaam so that they would not spoil the view of the city. Gradually, only one person became associated with the Victory - Stalin. This substitution formed the basis of the current Stalinism.

The Red Army, which he cherished so much, in which he worked so hard, completely lost the war. Somewhere in

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September-October, when it became clear that the country was dying, the war turned into the Great Patriotic War. And all the people rose up. Back then, in August-September, I was sitting in the trenches and saw retreating regular troops passing by us. We militias were armed with Molotov cocktails. I exchanged a bar of soap and a piece of sugar that my mother gave me for the road for a rifle with cartridges. What was it? For the war, for which the country had been preparing for a long time, preparing continuously, we were sent unarmed - all the people's militia.

I want the truth about the war to be preserved, not offensive to its participants, which tells how we lost this war and still found the strength to win it at an unheard of price. To call it Victory somehow the language does not turn. What kind of victory is this when we are still suffering from its traces. And it is not known when this will end - from this orphanage, illness, demographic failures. They are today's Stalinism.

Great courage and steadfastness, in civilian life, more than at the front, were needed by veterans in the first post-war years, and not only by them. All the people suffered the horror of Stalin's rule in the first seven post-war years. It was often feared that they would have to put on a military uniform again. Stalin behaved defiantly towards his former allies. "I do not believe that Soviet Russia is thirsty for war," Churchill said in those years, "what they want is the fruits of war and the unlimited spread of their power and their doctrines."

I would like to bring to the words of Winston Churchill an unknown fact. Often in the evenings in 1949, when the weather was fine, I walked with a colonel who lived in our yard. We soon became friends. Suddenly he disappeared. For a long time. Approximately six months later, he appeared, thinner, pale and, as it seemed to me, a little gray. We started walking together again. I did not ask him any questions, I patiently waited for him to reveal the secret himself.

his sudden disappearance. And the colonel somehow before

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This is what he confidently told me: "On a typical day, 40 generals and colonels, mostly employees of the General Staff, were taken to the airfield, put on a plane and sent to the "unknown". We were informed in the air that we had been sent to Kamchatka and were obliged to carry out an important task - to determine the real military possibilities to strike at imperialist America, if they dare to switch from cold to hot war. Soon after us began to arrive troops. They brought equipment, ammunition, food supplies. But short fur coats, warm underwear, felt boots, brought in the spring. I understood that this hype is useless - another whim of Stalin. But to say about it - try. Six months later they brought us to Moscow. During the time that we explored Kamchatka far and wide, the hospitals of Transbaikalia filled with hundreds of frostbitten officers and soldiers. Sorry for the young guys...

Memory of Stalinism

The problems associated with the memory of Stalinism in today's Russia are painful and acute. There is a mass of pro-Stalinist literature on the shelves: fiction, journalistic, quasi-historical. In sociological polls, Stalin is invariably in the top three "most prominent figures of all time." The Stalinist policy is interpreted in a justifying spirit in the new history textbooks FOR SCHOOL.

And next to it are the unconditional achievements of historians and archivists, hundreds of fundamental volumes of documents, scientific articles and monographs devoted to Stalinism. But even if they have an impact on the mass consciousness, it is too weak.

The reasons for this lie both in the lack of practical mechanisms for such influence and in the historical politics of recent years. But most of all - in the features of the current state

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of our national historical memory of steel
low.

What do I understand here by historical memory and what do I understand by Stalinism?

Historical memory is a retrospective form of collective consciousness that forms a collective identity in its relation to what is significant for this identity.

past. She works with the past, real or imaginary, as with material: she selects the facts and systematizes them appropriately, building from them what she is ready to present as the genealogy of this ideal.

ity.

Stalinism is a system of state administration, a set of specific political practices of the Stalinist leadership. Throughout its length, this system, which has evolved in many respects, has retained a number of characteristic features. But the most specific characteristic of Stalinism, its generic feature (which arose from the very beginning of Bolshevik rule and did not disappear with the death of Stalin) is terror as a universal tool for solving any political and social problems. It was state violence and terror that provided the possibility of centralization of government, and the severing of horizontal ties, and high vertical mobility, and the rigidity of the introduction of ideology with the ease of its modification, and a large army of subjects of slave labor...

Hence, the memory of Stalinism is, first of all, the memory of state terror as a system-forming factor of the era, as well as its connection with various processes and events of that time.

I will say a few words about the key properties of this memory today.

First, the memory of Stalinism in Russia is almost always the memory of the victims. About the victims, but not about the crime.

The point is to no small extent that in the legal sense, the mass consciousness has nothing to rely on. There is no th

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state legal act, in which state terror was called a crime. Two lines in the preamble to the 1991 law on the rehabilitation of victims is clearly not enough. There are also no individual court decisions that inspire at least partial confidence - there were no lawsuits against participants in the Stalinist terror in the new Russia. No one.

But the reasons are not only this.

Any assimilation of historical tragedies by the mass consciousness is based on the distribution of roles between Good and Evil and in identifying oneself with one of the roles. It is easiest to identify oneself with good, that is, with an innocent victim, or, even better, with a heroic struggle against Evil. By the way, this is why our Eastern European neighbors, from Ukraine to Poland and the Baltic states, do not have such serious problems with the development of the Soviet period of history as in Russia - they identify themselves with the victims or the fighters, or both at the same time.

Another question is whether this identification is always in agreement with historical knowledge, but we are not talking about knowledge, but about memory. One can even identify oneself with Evil, as the Germans did (not without outside help), in order to dissociate oneself from this Evil: "Yes, it was us, unfortunately, but now we are not like that and never will be like that again." we will."

And what about us living in Russia?

In Soviet terror, it is extremely difficult to separate the executioners from the victims. For example, secretaries of regional committees. In August 1937 they all, as one, were members of the "troikas" and signed execution sentences in batches, and by November 1938 half of them had been shot themselves.

In national and especially regional memory, conditional executioners, for example, the same secretaries of regional committees of 1937, remained by no means one-dimensional villains: yes, he signed documents on executions, but he also organized the construction of kindergartens and hospitals and personally

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he went around the workers' canteens to take a sample of the food, and his further fate arouses sympathy at all.

One more thing. Unlike the Nazis, who mostly killed strangers: Poles, Russians, and finally, German Jews (also, after all, not quite their own). We killed, mostly our own, and consciousness refuses to accept this fact.

In the memory of terror, we are not able to distribute the main roles, we are not able to put in place the place of the estate "we" and "they". This impossibility of alienating Evil is the main obstacle to the formation of a fully valuable memory of terror. It exacerbates its traumatic nature, becoming one of the main reasons for its displacement to the periphery of historical memory.

Second: at a certain level, at the level of personal memories, this is a fading memory. There are still witnesses, but these are the last witnesses, and they are leaving, and with them the memory is leaving as a personal memory and a personal recollection.

living.

The third is connected with this second.

Memory-recollection is being replaced by memory as a set of collective images of the past, no longer formed by personal or even family memories, but by various social and cultural mechanisms. Not the least of these mechanisms is historical politics, the purposeful efforts of the political elite to form an image of the past that suits it. Taco

We have been witnessing such efforts since the 1990s, when the political authorities began to look for justifications for their own legitimacy in the past. But if the authorities felt a lack of legitimacy, then the population after the collapse of the USSR felt a lack of identity. At the same time, both the authorities and the population were looking for a way to make up for their deficits in the form of Great Russia, the heir of which is today's Russia. Those images of the "bright past" that were offered by the authorities in the 90s - Stolypin, Peter the Great

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and so on, were not perceived by the population: too far and too little connected with today. Gradually and implicitly, the concept of Great Russia grew during the Soviet period, in particular the Stalin era.

The post-Yeltsin leadership of the country sensed this readiness for the next reconstruction of the past and used it to the fullest extent. I do not want to say that the authorities of the 2000s intended to rehabilitate Stalin. She just wanted to offer her fellow citizens the idea of a great country that remains great in any era and emerges with honor from all trials. It needed the image of a happy and glorious past to consolidate the population, to restore the indisputable authority of state power, to strengthen its own "vertical", etc. But regardless of these intentions, against the backdrop of the newly emerged panorama of a great power, today, as before, De, "surrounded by a ring of enemies", the mustachioed profile of the great leader emerged. This result was inevitable and natural.

Two images of the Stalin era entered into fiercely competitive relations with each other: the image of Stalinism, that is, the image of the criminal regime, on whose conscience decades of state terror, and the image of the era of glorious victories and great achievements. And, of course, first of all, the image of the main victory - the Victory in the Great Patriotic War.

Fourth: the memory of Stalinism and the memory of the war. The memory of the war became the supporting structure on which national self-identification was reorganized. Much has been written on this subject. I will note only one thing: what today is called the memory of the war does not quite correspond to the name. The memory of the hardships of the war, of its everyday life, of 1941, of captivity, evacuation, of the victims of the war, this memory in the Khrushchev era was sharply anti-Stalinist. At that time, it was organically intertwined with the memory of terror. Today, the memory of the war has been replaced by the memory of the Victory. The change began in the mid 60s. Simultaneously

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since the end of the 60s, it turned out again - for as much as 20 years! - under the ban the memory of terror. The substitution was completed only now, when there were almost no front-line soldiers left and there was no one to correct the collective stereotype with personal memories.

The memory of the Victory without the memory of the price of the Victory, of course, cannot be anti-Stalinist. And so it does not fit well with the memory of terror. If we greatly simplify, then this memory conflict looks something like this. If state terror was a crime, then who was the criminal? State? Was Stalin at its head? But after all, we won the war against Absolute Evil - and, therefore, we were subjects not of a criminal regime, but of a great country, the personification of all that is good in the world? It was under the leadership of Stalin that we defeated Hitler. Victory is the era of Stalin and terror is the era of Stalin. It is impossible to reconcile these two images of the past, unless one of them is forced out, or at least serious adjustments are made to it.

And so it happened - the memory of terror receded. It has not completely disappeared, but has been relegated to the periphery of the mass consciousness.

In these circumstances, it is surprising that the memory of terror has remained at all in any form, that it has not turned into a great national taboo, that it still exists and develops.

The first, and most obvious, evidence of the memory of historical events are the monuments dedicated to these events.

Another channel for supplying mass consciousness with historical concepts and images is culture in the most mass forms of existence, primarily television. Television programs devoted to the Stalin era are quite numerous and varied, and glamorous pro-Stalin kitsch like the series "Stalin-She" competes on an equal footing with the talented and quite conscientious film adaptations of Shalamov and Solzhenitsyn. Those

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The viewer can choose his preferred ways of reading the era. Alas, apparently, the proportion of those who choose Stalin-She is growing, while those who choose Shalamov are falling. Naturally, the viewer, whose current worldview is shaped by anti-Western rhetoric and the endless incantations of television political scientists about great

which country, which is surrounded on all sides by enemies, and inside is undermined by the "fifth column", does not need prompting in order to choose for itself that image of the past that best suits this worldview. And none of the Shalamov-Solzhenitsyns can bring him down.

Finally, perhaps the most important institution for constructing collective ideas about the past is the school history course. Here, as well as in a significant part of journalistic and documentary television programs, the state historical policy, in contrast to much of what was said above, is quite active. Its character, however, makes one think that passivity in relation to historical memory is not as dangerous as using history as an instrument of political TIKI.

The new history textbooks contain the theme of steelism as a systemic phenomenon. It seemed like an achievement. But terror acts there as a historically determined and uncontested tool for solving state problems. This concept does not exclude sympathy for the victims of the Moloch of history, but categorically does not allow the question of the criminal nature of terror and the subject of this crime to be raised.

This is not the result of an orientation towards the idealization of Stalin. This is a natural by-product of solving a completely different problem — the assertion of the idea of the deliberate rightness of state power. Power is above any moral and legal assessments. It is not subject to jurisdiction by definition, because it is guided by state interests, which are higher than the interests of man and society, higher than morality and law. The state is always right, at least until

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as long as he manages to defeat his enemies. This thought pervades the new textbooks from start to finish, and not just where repression is concerned.

In summary: as can be seen from all that has been said above, we can speak of a fragmented, fragmented, receding memory, pushed out to the periphery of mass consciousness. But the bearers of the memory of Stalinism in the sense that we put into these words are today an obvious minority. Whether there is still a chance for this memory to become national, what knowledge and what values must be assimilated by the mass consciousness for this, what needs to be done here is the subject of a separate discussion. It is clear that joint efforts of both society and the state are needed.

Chapter Seventeen

WHEN WILL THE LAST
SOLDIER BE BURIED?

Unfinished war

First, let's acquaint the reader with the official data on the losses of the Red Army in the Great Patriotic War.

The total irretrievable losses of the Soviet Armed Forces amounted to 11,000,444,100 people. When determining the demographic losses of military personnel, the number of irretrievable losses of the payroll was reduced by the number of those who found themselves alive after the war - 1,836,000 people, who returned from captivity - 939,700 people, re-conscripted in the liberated territory, previously reported missing. Thus, the losses of the army are determined at 8,668,400 people.

Most of them are occupied by the missing. According to documents - 5,059,000 were missing. Not all of them were captured. The results of a study of archival documents of the German military command confirm that about 450,500,000 servicemen of this number died, remained in the occupied territory, ended up with partisans, and 4,599,000 ended up in German captivity, of which only 1,836,000 returned after home wars. The rest perished, and about 200,000 emigrated.

\ Memz.ga.sot /Kiza/ 15 to\2002, from 12.05.2007

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12.5 million soldiers and officers ended the war. By the 64th anniversary of the Victory, in 2009, only 900,000 survived - in all the republics of the former Soviet Union. Of these, 450,000 live in Russia. There are 274,000 veterans in Moscow. But among them, only 47,000 former front-line soldiers. What do these figures indicate? Every year the number of veterans decreases. Unfortunately, very few of them will remain by the 70th anniversary of the Victory in Russia. And who are the rest, the so-called veterans, who were not included in the 47,000 former front-line soldiers? It was strange for me to see on May 9, in a TV show about a military parade in Omsk, far from elderly people walking in a column of veterans. Meanwhile, the average age of true front-line soldiers has already reached 85 years.

Although almost 65 years have passed since the end of the Great Patriotic War, more than one million dead soldiers and officers have not yet been buried? The state did not fulfill its direct duty to the defenders of the Fatherland - it did not bury them like human beings. And this became a tragedy not only for millions of their mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, but also a tragedy for the entire Red Army.

It has long been known that "until the last soldier is buried, the war is considered not over." However, the history of Russia did not know such a shame.

The remains of dead and unburied soldiers lie in forests, near rivers and streams, in low-lying swamps, on the site of disappeared villages. They search for and find shot through helmets, half-rotten machine-gun belts, rusty sapper shovels, cans, and nearby human bones covered with earth and leaves. A lot of cartridges, cartridge cases, rifle bayonets, and soldier's remains are found in abandoned and half-filled dugouts and trenches, in huge bomb craters, in clearings and at

'Grani.Vee, May 9, 2009

Oksana Korneva. Field diary. According to the Russian Book of Memory, \u\u\okogpeua.gi.

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highways, they roll in roadside ditches. They are found in the places of former battles, in wooded ravines and near lakes, in foothill hollows. So simply and for a long time lie under a small layer of earth skulls and bones. Even in the first post-war years, Ivan Pereverzev's quatrain went from hand to hand:

Oh, Motherland, not on the churchyard,

In a high city or next to it, the people's
righteous bones, Lying all over
the earth.

During the war, as a rule, they buried in capes, sprinkled with good branches and a small layer of earth. A plank or a low wooden post was stuck into the ground and the last name, first name and patronymic of the deceased soldier, year of his birth, home address were written on the plank with a chemical pencil, the place and day of death, the area where the grave was located.

Many places of past battles have not yet been fully put in order, have not been cleared of shells and mines, which often leads to human casualties.

According to the data of the Military Memorial Center of the Ministry of Defense of Russia, there are about 30,000 burial places in Russia on Russian soil, where more than seven million soldiers and officers of the Red Army are buried. Of these, the names of only two and a half million people are known!, the rest are buried nameless?.

The memory of the fallen is an earthly human feeling. It is always noble and holy. How can a country fail to understand that its duty is not only to celebrate

May 9 is Victory Day in honoring veterans, but also in humanly burying all fallen soldiers. It often becomes uncomfortable when, after the annual pomposity and what was said on the occasion of Victory Day

! Russian news. 12.2007. ?BabalinA. The battalions of the missing are demanding a return from oblivion. Independent military review. 06/18/2006.

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loud words, you think about the fact that the bones of my contemporaries are still lying around the forests, steppes and fields.

And one more sad fact: "Most military graves, memorials, monuments are located in the west of the country, in the so-called remote regions," says the head of the department for perpetuating the memory, Major General Alexander Kirilin, "so funds for their

no recovery."

Some burials remain in depopulated areas. These monuments were created immediately after the war, in the 40-50s of the last century, often from gypsum, marble chips - short-lived materials. And those that were made of metal were stolen in the 90s. Even the world-famous monument to the Liberator Soldier in Treptower Park in Berlin almost collapsed, so much rust had eaten it up in 60 years. But the main thing is not the dilapidation of what was done earlier. Here's what search engines say about it:

They buried, made graves, put the shot through helmets around. But you arrive in a month or two and are no longer able to find the grave, because the quinoa grew up to your chest. Nobody cares. More often the abomination of desolation. In 2005, in connection with the 60th anniversary of the Victory, the authorities paid attention to military cemeteries, they became more well-groomed.

The Russian government annually allocates one and a half million dollars for the restoration and maintenance of military graves. Unfortunately, this is too little. The German government annually spends 20 times more for these purposes.

"No one is forgotten" (lyrics from the song)

In the second half of the 1960s, a movement unique for a totalitarian state was born in the Soviet Union. High school students, students, young workers voluntarily united in detachments and in free

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time they went to the places of former battles, and for many years they traveled at their own expense.

As a rule, and this is natural, the beginning of this movement is associated with front-line soldiers who miraculously survived. They were constantly tormented by the thought that many of their fellow soldiers remained unburied, that often their remains lie on the former battlefields, useless. And no one cares about them. Somewhere there were obelisks, mass graves, but everywhere where the accursed war took place, the Russian land was littered with the unburied remains of dead soldiers.

Most often, these enthusiasts single-handedly tried to draw the attention of the state to a nightmarish misfortune. They knocked on the doors of the offices of party and state officials, wrote letters to all authorities, asking the same question: why, although many years have passed, their comrades in arms were not buried, how could this happen? Attempts to awaken the party and state conscience, as a rule, ended in empty demagoguery. The frontline generation for a long, very long time got rid of faith in the party and Soviet power. But, tired of useless troubles, many people realized that they could only rely on themselves.

Front-line soldiers involved young people in the movement of searchers - as they called the boys and girls who were engaged in the search for the remains of the dead. In fact, these are their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren... Now, from separate disparate detachments, in modern Russia, a whole army of search engines has arisen, the main principle of which has become the words: "We are not looking for bones, but for people."

Young people are deeply convinced that they are doing an important and necessary thing, preserving history. The search engines are trying to return from non-existence the names and destinies of the "missing PHIH."

In 2004, the Union of Search Associations was created - the largest youth association in Russia. It includes over 100 thousand enthusiasts, patriots

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comrades from ten republican, regional and regional search organizations (.

The names of the heroes of the war are widely known - Alexander Matrosov, Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya. But what do we know about the fate of the soldiers whose exploits belong to the land drenched in their blood? Years have passed, and a new generation of youth is restoring the truth of the war, the truth about those who are considered "missing." The search for unburied defenders of the Fatherland has become the main meaning of life for many

lazy citizens of Russia.

The work of searchers is not only hard physical work, but also serious psychological experiences, in which both overcoming fear and understanding of one's responsibility to the living and the dead, the joy of a successful search and the bitterness of failure have merged.

"Who are they, these dead, for us? More precisely, "who" or "WHAT", people or things?" - the search guys ask themselves. Most acutely, this is a contradiction. In it, in work, each person passes along the line that separates the world from the wearing of people from the world of inanimate objects. Constantly, day after day, meeting with what a person who died 50 years ago turns into, the search engine gets used to dealing with objects, not for a moment forgetting, moreover, that they were people. The inconsistency of consciousness haunts them constantly.

"It seemed to me," writes a sixteen-year-old girl, "from the very beginning I understood that these were people who once lived, but still it was not the same. On the very last day of the excavation, I thought for a second about what I was washing in the river. These were the bones of people who, in general, were not much older than me. These people lived on earth, but now they are no more. And at that moment I could no longer continue to work. I sat like this

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"Union of Search Associations". Booklet. Kazan. Newspaper "Fatherland". 2002. No. 2.

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more than three minutes, but these three minutes seemed very long to me.

And here is a different perception of the search for an eighteen-year-old student: "Sometimes it was creepy. When I imagined that those arms and legs hurt, what a person was thinking with this brain ... What did the guys think and remember in the last minutes of their lives?

The consciousness of children who are normal in their moral development cannot avoid contradictions. There are, of course, others — those who indifferently break a human skull, because they have not matured enough to feel restlessness and anxiety, even if unconscious, at the sight of a particle of someone else's death. This indifference is the key to indifference to someone else's life.

Until 1988, search work was carried out by unrelated groups of enthusiasts, using their own resources and resources. Rare sponsorship contributions, and more often personal funds of the participants, made it possible to conduct expeditions of a small scale and, as a rule, without any official permission, at their own peril and risk.

In March 1988, the first All-Union gathering of leaders of search teams took place in Kaluga. A Coordinating Council was created, headed by a former front-line soldier, journalist Yu.M. Ikonnikov. Expeditions "Valley" and "Snow Landing" were carried out in the area of Myasny Bor. They were attended by 850 people from 15 cities of the Union. 3500 people were reburied at the military cemetery

lovek.

For the first time, the scale of the prospecting work forced the authorities to draw attention to themselves. For the first time, the Ministry of Defense provided substantial and targeted assistance to enthusiasts with property and equipment.

The work of 1988 in the Novgorod region made it possible to determine the location of the 1989 Memory Watch. This pompous event was previously held in the cities at the majestic memorials, under the leadership of the party, Komsomol organs and the army.

It was believed that by doing so, tribute is paid in full to all

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dead. And suddenly, in the autumn of 1988, the previously unknown name Myasnoy Bor appeared in the lexicon of the functionaries. The result of the joint work of hundreds of search engines was stunning in its unexpectedness and tragedy. It was decided to hold the next All-Union Watch of Memory in 1989 in the Novgorod region, near the village of Myasnoy Bor.

Exploration work was carried out not only in the Novgorod region. Fifty regions of the former Soviet Union were in need of an exploratory survey, and especially Smolensk, Bryansk, Kaluga, Tver (Kalinin), Leningrad, Murmansk, Pskov, Kursk, Vitebsk, Kaliningrad and other regions.

In April 1989, 1,500 searchers gathered in Myasnoy Bor. During 10 days of work, 3,400 people were raised and reburied, 89 names were identified. Watch of Memory in 1990 was held in the Smolensk region. One thousand two hundred searchers reburied 3,320 soldiers who died in the Vyazma encirclement of 1941-1942, in the Sychevsk operation of 1942-1943, and established 52 names in ten days of work. Further, in 1991, the Watch of Memory was held in the Tver region. Search work continued further. Strengthened materially and morally, search associations took upon themselves the conduct of new large-scale expeditions. Strengthened the skills and experience of search engines. In Myasny Bor alone, the search engines buried more than 30,000 soldiers and commanders.

By the 50th anniversary of the Victory, the interest of the state in search work increased. In 1989-1990, the search engines began to allocate funds for their expeditions. Gene-

The Central Headquarters issued a Directive on how the army should help the search engines: "... transfer to the search formations obsolete uniforms and equipment ..." It is a pity that the reader cannot imagine how it LOOKES!

"It is unlikely that we will be able to bury everyone: we paid too much for the Victory, and a lot of time has passed

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lo, but we will try to do everything in our power, however, the next generations will have to complete the work," the search engines say.

Here are some specific messages from the Mem5.com website for 2007.

In the Murmansk region in the Valley of Glory on Saturday, a solemn reburial of the remains of 130 soldiers of the Polar Division took place, the names of ten of which have been established. Among those reburied is Soviet pilot Dmitry Shatyuk, whose remains were found by Norwegians in a plane that crashed in Norway. The plane was raised from the swamp. The remains of the pilot were taken to the Murmansk region.

During the war, in the Valley of Glory, located 80 kilometers from Murmansk on the western coast of the Kola Bay, the fiercest battles for the Kola Arctic took place. Traces of fascist fortifications and trenches, as well as dugouts of Soviet troops, are still preserved in the Valley. In total, 72 thousand Soviet soldiers died on the territory of the Murmansk region, while over 32 years of search work in the Valley of Glory, about 15 thousand were reburied.

Here is another post.

The search engines found nine mass graves. A separate grave was also found here, in which the commander of the 267th consolidated division, Colonel Andrei Kudryashov, holder of two orders of the Red Banner, was buried. He died on December 17, 1942 during Operation Little Saturn. Even in the grave, the divisional commander clutched a saber in one hand, a compass in the other. During the search, members of the Don squad found the remains of 65 Soviet soldiers.

Only a few lines, but they open one of the sad pages of the war, which became famous thanks to
search engine letters.

In April 1942, after an ill-conceived order from the Headquarters to capture the city of Vyazma, three divisions of the 33rd Army, under the command of Lieutenant General Efremov, found themselves surrounded northwest of Yukhnov. Big

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in groups and groups, two or three, the fighters tried to reach the mouth of the Vorya River and upstream the Ugra, where the 43rd Army tried to break through a corridor in order to withdraw the encircled. But the Germans met them everywhere with dense fire. It was impossible to break through.

The battalion of the 43rd Army, suffering huge losses, covering the Ugra and coastal forests with the bodies of Russian soldiers, also could not break through to the units of the 33rd Army. Hungry, tired fighters took a desperate step: tying logs, they lowered the rafts into the water and lay down on them. Some did not have the strength to search for logs, and they simply lay down on the floating ice floes (the river had just opened from the ice).

It was the middle of April, the weather was cold and windy. People tried to lie motionless in their overcoats and tunics, soaked through through them. Those five or six hours that they had to stay on the raft were incredibly difficult to endure, but they had to endure not only the torture of cold. German trenches were located on the left and right along the banks, and the enemy quickly realized that the bodies lying motionless on the ice floes and rafts were not corpses, but desperate Ivans, and they were alive. The hunt has begun. The targets were about a hundred meters away. The Germans were having fun, bursts of laughter could be heard from the trenches, and the Russian soldiers were doomed to death. And they died, unable to do anything

change.

How many there were - no one knows for sure. There were many, hundreds. It is known that the hunt lasted about a week. Several people were taken off the ice floes barely alive at the location of the 53rd division of the 43rd army. After passing through SMERSH, they were returned to service. And the rest? Where are their remains? Most of the bodies were left in the river. The current drove them down and nailed them to the islands.

There was one large island, located near the command post of the 53rd division of the 43rd army, to which many bodies were nailed. The island was photographed at the end of April 1942. This photo was studied and, knowing its approximate location

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position, began the search. The results were small but interesting. First, they stumbled upon fragments of earthenware, deeper they found a fishing sinker carved from stone and drilled in the center. We have suspicions about the great age of the finds. With further deepening, the guys found a fragment of a human bone. The fragment of the zygomatic bone was jet black both on the outside and on the break. It can be assumed that the finds are associated with the times of the Great Confrontation on the Ugra. But there was nothing to indicate what we were looking for. "Islands of Death"

was.

The search continued the following year. Now there is a large black cross on the edge of the field, and one and a half thousand soldiers are buried nearby, the remains of which were found in the surrounding forests by the search engines of the Historical and Archival Institute. So, gradually, the search engines restored page after page the truth about the past war, and this, perhaps, is their great merit.

Search engines are often asked the following question: "Why, with so many remains of dead soldiers found, is it not possible to establish their names, which means not to find their relatives?"

I think there are three main reasons. First, too much time has passed since the death of people, and it has erased many human traces. Secondly, in September 1942, the People's Commissar of Defense issued Order No. 376 "On the removal of medallions from the supply of the Red Army." I tried to find out why, in fact, an absurd order appeared, but failed.

Let us recall that many soldiers were in no hurry to use the "suicide bomber", as medallions were called among the soldiers. Especially the old soldiers believed that the "suicide bomber" he was the "suicide bomber", bringing death to a person. I also never wore a medallion in the war. As far as I remember, the medallions did not have a hermetic closure. Therefore, their price was low. As a rule, according to the search engines, Even the medallions found are often soldiers

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used to store threads, needles, small photographs, pencils, soap bars.

Let's acquaint the reader with one story from the life of search engines. Three years ago, Oleg Erokhin, a promising journalist from the Balakovo television company in the Saratov region, could not even imagine that he would someday become a search engine. His whole life was changed by the last will of his grandmother. Dying, Maria Fedorovna told her grandson about the mysterious disappearance of his grandfather in 1942. Some believed that Fyodor Pirogov was killed by a stray bullet, others that he was captured and became a spy. "Your grandfather was always an honest man," grandmother told Oleg before his death. "I know he died as a hero. Find his grave and bury my beloved with me."

Erokhin contacted his friend, who works in a lawsuit group near Novosibirsk. "But it's weak for you to make a film about us!", She said to Oleg, and he, without hesitation, agreed. Having filmed a film about search engines, Erokhin himself soon joined their ranks.

"I will never forget how the search engines found the daughter of one

many of the dead," says Erokhin. The missing father of this villager was considered a traitor. For her, it was just like a brand. When we told this woman how her father died and showed him his grave, she wept. And the whole village came to her to ask for forgiveness.

Oleg returned to the Saratov region a different person. He created a search party called "Nabat" and headed it.

"You know, the authorities didn't welcome the search work before," says Oleg, "they were unspoken taboos. It was believed that all the dead had already been buried with honor. The rest are either former prisoners or traitors. But people continued to find the remains of paratroopers in the bone-strewn fields and hanging on the trees. They wanted an explanation."

After everything experienced, Erokhin began to take a zealous

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participated in the search for dead soldiers and made many discoveries.

Recently, the search engine Oleg Erokhin discovered the remains of a 20-year-old soldier. His identity was established on an ordinary aluminum spoon, where the boy scrawled his name and data. The found spoon is pierced by a bullet. On it was scrawled: "V. P. Gerentiev." Oleg found out that this private was called up from the Leningrad region. He found the soldier's relatives to tell them - Terentiev is not a traitor, he died defending his homeland!

"But what about your grandfather? Mom reminded him. "You found so many people, but it's still not clear where he lies?" And Oleg went headlong in search of his grandfather. But finding his traces proved almost impossible.

"I only knew that my grandfather was a native of Kabardino Balkaria," says Erokhin. - I began to dig further - a dead end! The data from the military registration and enlistment office there were irretrievably lost or destroyed. Contacted the FSB. There I was told: "Be courageous and ready for the fact that your grandfather is on the lists of traitors."

Oleg was advised to look for "funds" according to Pirogov in the archives of the NKVD. There was an assumption that Erokhin's grandfather was captured, and then, under his name, an employee of the German special services infiltrated the Russian army. But Oleg did not believe in it, just as his grandmother did not. He reached the end of the vedesh archives. In the list of 38 people, Erokhin did not find the name of his grandfather. Then he built his own hypothesis. I calculated all the regiments that were called up at that moment from Kabardino-Balkaria. Step by step I collected information about them. One of these regiments was sent to Ukraine during the war. Then Erokhin remembered that one

Once, my grandmother told me how she went to Russia from Ukraine with her one year old daughter. He opened the archives of the "Ukrainian" regiment and found the name of Pirogov!

It turned out that Oleg's grandfather ended up in a pontoon-bridge battalion stationed in the Skity farm near present-day Volgograd. He served as a pontooner at the crossing and

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disappeared May 13, 1942. But Erokhin managed to find in the regimental archive another battle report - dated August 16 of the same year. It said that the body of Fyodor Pirogov, shot through, had been dragged out of the river. On May 13, he died during the bombing, and the body was carried away by the current. The remains of the soldiers washed ashore only on August 16. But Pirogov could be identified. So Oleg proved that his grandfather was not a traitor, but defended his homeland and died with honor. "They didn't even bury him in a grave, but in a nearby crater," Erokhin says. "The discovery of Oleg Erokhin shocked his entire family."

In recent years, the Russian Ministry of Defense has allocated an entire battalion to help search engines in the Leningrad Military District. Why only one, not two, three? Why, immediately after the war, did the army not send entire regiments to search for the remains of the dead? Why did the Orthodox Church remain aloof from this noble, holy cause? If it is difficult to answer these "whys" in Stalin's time, then God himself ordered this to be done.

According to the Ministry of Defense of Russia, as reported by Colonel Igor Presnyakov, as of April 20, 2009, there are about a million awards that were not presented to front-line soldiers in their time. Many of them have already died, or it was difficult to establish their new place of residence. In total, since the war, 253 veterans have been found, who have been awarded 256 awards... A glaringly unique fact!..2

Two cemeteries - one war

Various cemeteries. Soviet soldiers are buried on one, and Wehrmacht soldiers are buried on the other. Prefabricated non-German cemeteries appeared in Russia 45 years after the end of World War II - in the 90s of the past

Irina Golovinova. Requiem, cemetery in Sologubovka. Vir: // mumungeashet. et{ 148/. 2 Newspaper "Independent military review", 11.05.2009

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centuries. In the next ten years, 25 German cemeteries were opened.

Here is one of them that should be mentioned. A cemetery for 40,000 graves and the Peace Park have been created on a huge field of five hectares, one hundred kilometers from St. Petersburg, near the village of Sologubovka. The opening of this, perhaps, the largest burial place of former opponents, took place on September 9, 2000-.

In the center of the graveyard, a huge cross was erected. The same one stands in Russian military cemeteries in Germany. A little to the side, a granite monument of a woman with a baby was erected - the work of the German sculptor Irena von Leistner. Her fiancé went missing on the Eastern Front.

In the autumn of 1941, the Nazis entered Sologubovka and issued a decree: "The stay of unauthorized persons on the territory of the village is prohibited. Report the appearance of outsiders to the commandant's office.

In that village there lived a woman, the mother of four children, Ulyana Fenagina. One evening, a stranger knocked at her house and asked to spend the night. He was Russian. Under pain of death, she let him into the house, dressed him, fed him ... And in the morning he went and handed her over to the commandant's tour. It was our traitor who worked for the Gestapo.

Witnesses of that time recalled that Ulyana was brought to prison with her daughter, whom she was breastfeeding. Then the woman was shot in front of the whole village. A few days later her little girl died of starvation. The story of the murder of Uliana Fenagina, as a fact of a war crime, was heard at the Nuremberg Trials.

In the Church of the Assumption of the Mother of God, in Sologubovka, during the war there was a hospital. Hundreds of German soldiers died in the church cellar. Today, where bunks for the wounded once stood, a stele has been erected

1 Me\5.sot News of Russia. July 25, 2007 Irina Golovinova.
"Requiem" (Cemetery) New cemetery in Sologubovka.

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live with the "Books of Memory", which contains the names of all the Germans who died in Russia.

The Assumption Church in Sologubovka was restored only in 2003 at the expense of German citizens. Father Vyacheslav Kharinov became the rector of the temple. Since then, they have not tired of accusing him of walking with a censer between the graves of the Gentiles, and in the cellars of the temple he keeps the "Books of Life" of fascist invaders.

In response to these remarks, the priest declares: "How should one treat the enemy after the war? What is church peacekeeping? I believe that war, says Kharinov, is the most irreconcilable form of sinful intolerance towards man. This intolerance can be easily provoked at the level of relations between two states or peoples: "kill the German", "Gypsies are subhuman". In ecclesiastical peacekeeping, the external aspect is not as important as in the secular one.

In every man the passions are at enmity, he is broken by sins - and this is the main cause of all wars. It is important to reveal not only the unacceptable side of the war, but also its immoral, sinful nature.

My position on the fallen Germans is no more, but no less than the position of a Christian. The body of the deceased must be buried, whoever he may be. It is possible, of course, to "carve out" enemy tanks, shoot them, set them on fire with napalm, spray them with dust, and destroy them even into the smallest atoms. But all the same, the Lord will call everyone on the Day of Judgment, put them before Himself, and everyone will answer to Him. Why should we try to replace the Lord God? The pagan attitude to the body of any person is unacceptable: both the soul and the body of every living person are created by God with equal love.

A person has a certain ethical margin of safety, and if it is violated, then irreversible consequences occur. A person who has seen atrocities will never emotionally reconcile with the enemy. And then it remains only to rely on your will and reason, on the mystical feeling of the need to achieve peace in your heart.

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Forgiving is difficult. But forgiveness does not mean reconciliation with evil. One must be able to be courageous and courageous, to speak both about the senseless atrocities of the Germans and about the unjustified cruelty of our soldiers.

The Germans come to Sologubovka and cry on the graves of their compatriots. Together with our war veterans, I toured Russian military cemeteries in Germany. We made sure that the graves of our soldiers are in very good condition. That is, the cemetery itself will not surprise the Germans. They are more moved by the fact that we can forgive, that there is a place where they can remember their relatives. Completely different people come. One monk came, a wonderful man, just an old man, it is immediately clear that he is a man of an honest bright life. He came to find his brother. And an amazing story emerged. It turns out that his brother was a deeply religious person and dreamed of monasticism, but he was driven like cannon fodder to the Eastern Front. And my interlocutor would have completely different life plans. The death of his brother changed his whole life, he realized that he had to do something.

cry for him. I got closer to the Church. And in the end he took monastic vows. "I am a monk because my brother failed to do it," he said. He wept when he went to his brother's grave.

The German Cemetery and Peace Park in Sologubovka is a peacekeeping project between Russia and Germany, funded by ordinary people. And this is the most important thing!

The tragedy of the war and the ethical problems associated with it really opened up to me when I began to work on the Sologub church. The Germans were going to blow up the church in order to pave the way directly to the cemetery. I had to defend the temple (at that time it was actually a ruin), but at the same time I had to convince them of the need for a German cemetery. I told the Germans that in 50 years the cemetery would be abandoned if this place was not marked by restoring the temple as a monument to reconciliation.

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between two peoples. The reason for the joint restoration of the temple was also the fact that the Germans were involved in its destruction during the war.

Reconciliation over the graves

It is impossible to bypass the history of the birth of the German cemetery in Rzhev. Years passed before it was possible to create it. Former party functionaries opposed the organization of the cemetery. They organized rallies, appealed to the authorities, wrote vile leaflets, and drew part of the veterans into anti-German sentiments. However, they were unable to achieve their goal.

The surviving adversaries unite to honor those who died 60 years ago. The German officer Ernst-Martin Rein and his fellow soldiers from East Westphalia took part in bloody battles near Rzhev. The casualties on both sides were colossal: tens of thousands of dead, wounded and missing. Then fellow soldiers considered Ryan dead. But many decades later, when they accidentally learned that their commander had survived the war and captivity, they invited him to join the front-line partnership created in 1977. And in the last days of September 2002, veterans led by Ernst-Martin Rein again visited the fields of past battles. This time to participate in the opening of a modest German cemetery'.

In May 1992, Erich Fornholt from Guterslohe sent a letter to the Council of War Veterans of the city of Rzhev, which contained the following words: "We want to extend a hand of reconciliation to you. Through mutual acquaintance and exchange of opinions, we must strengthen peace." Thus began the correspondence.

A year later, the first meeting took place in Rzhev. It was not easy for the Germans to listen to stories about the suffering endured by the Russian civilian population, who found themselves in ok-

| "Union of Search Organizations". Booklet. Newspaper "Fatherland". 2002. 1998. No. 2 (Kazan).

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bathing. At the same time, they were also told about how the German soldiers saved this or that family from imminent starvation. Revelations about the experiences contributed to a better mutual understanding.

Inspired by the positive results of two trips to Russia, the members of the partnership and a number of other societies created the Rzhev Board of Trustees in January 1995, electing Ernst-Martin Rhein as its head. Over time, representatives of the post-war generations, primarily teachers and doctors, joined the work of the committee. The exchange of delegations became bilateral. Guests from Rzhev - war veterans, teachers of the German language, schoolchildren, doctors, historians - repeatedly visited Güterslohe, Deln, Bonn, and other cities. Impressions from these trips changed the worldview of Russians.

Youth exchange and inter-school cooperation formed the basis of the partnership between Rzhev and Güterslohe. Many German teachers from Russian schools took part in methodological seminars in Germany, and their best students took part in classes in German schools.

The Board of Trustees collected and delivered textbooks, books and furniture worth several tens of thousands of euros to Rzhev schools.

Every year a German-Russian youth camp was organized near Rzhev. It was financed by the German People's Association for the Care of War Graves.

As part of humanitarian aid, the Committee of Trustees delivered medical equipment, dressings, and syringes worth more than two hundred thousand euros to Rzhev hospitals.

In 2002, a German cemetery appeared in Rzhev. Ernst-Martin Rein spoke at its opening and said: "We have been waiting for this day for a long time, we are Germans who survived in

"Union of Search Organizations". Booklet. Newspaper "Fatherland". 2002. No. 2. Kazan.

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Rzhev battle. Relatives of the victims, who are among us, are grateful to fate that they survived to the day of the consecration of the cemetery.

On behalf of the Rzhev Board of Trustees, he thanked all Russian friends who, having accepted the idea of reconciliation and peace, support it to this day, not succumbing to the attacks and accusations of opponents. "Most of our comrades died here," Rine said. Neither the cross nor the stone reminds of them today. From now on, the Christian cross must keep this remembrance. When they fought, they did not know what crimes were being committed in the rear against the Russian people. These unimaginable crimes were a mockery of the traditions and culture of your country. We are ashamed of this... Being here, we again remember the Red Army soldiers attacking our positions in hundreds, often in waves after waves, falling wounded or killed under our automatic and artillery fire. It was these scenes from the past that strengthened our desire to find ways to communicate and reconcile with the enemy we once fought. These memories just give us strength for our joint work ... "

At the crossroads near the village of Barduttingsdorf, not far from the town of Güterslohe, there is a sign: "K. Rzhev monument! The peasant Karl Niehus-Obermann erected a monument on his land to the fallen comrades from his 58th regiment and to the fighters from the seven Soviet rifle divisions stationed opposite his regiment. After the joint wreath-laying, the Russian veteran approached the German veteran and said: "We were shooting at each other. Now we are old and have little time left to live. Let's work together to make sure this doesn't happen again."

What I am going to tell you next is an amazing story in itself from the life of the war in Rzhev.

It is hard to imagine a Wehrmacht soldier among the ruins of the city of Rzhev in the midst of fighting with a notebook and a pencil in his hands. But there was such a soldier. Artist Franz-Josef Lahn

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Ger captured the war in his paintings, letters to his wife and diaries. In May-June 1997, a presentation of eighty-six works by Langer took place in the exhibition hall of the city of Rzhev. In them, the artist showed Rzhev during the period of non-German occupation. This exhibition aroused great interest among the townspeople, especially among the elderly. Some brought fresh flowers and placed them next to the paintings.

Franz Josef Langer, as an artist, was obliged to sing in his work the victorious campaign to the East. But with the consent of the commander, he did not draw total scenes, but

landscapes and simple Russian faces. After all, this is also a portrait of war: adults and children, prisoners and civilians, faces reflecting the hardships of war, the pain of humiliation, and hope for the future.

Langer's paintings preserved views of the city, wounded by the war. Here is a dilapidated church, a cemetery nearby, slanting crosses rushing upward through a cover of snow. Here are the chimneys of destroyed houses, directed to the sky! Away from the mortal earth, from war, from the horror and death that people in uniforms sow. Langer did not paint from time to time, not only in between battles, but also under Soviet artillery fire and air bombardment. In letters to his wife, he wrote that the landscape and views of the city are constantly changing. As soon as he makes a throw of some building, and it is already destroyed. He popped he constantly. There was only one choice: to draw or to kill with a weapon in hand. That is why he asked in his letters to his wife to send him more pencils and paints. He had to endure the envy and dislike of his comrades because of his privileged position.

The military unit in which Langer served was surrounded in the summer of 1944 near Bobruisk and completely destroyed. The artist's captivity passed. Back in April, he was sent to his homeland, where exhibitions of his paintings were held in several cities. So creativity saved his life.

Letters, diaries and paintings by Langer could have been

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unknown to post-war generations, if not for chance. His son Hans-Peter discovered them under the floorboards of his father's house during renovations. The artist himself did not live to see his first exhibition in Rzhev.

What is the Memorial to the German soldiers there in Rzhev? We are talking about a territory that, although located within the city, is located behind a brick factory and a gas station ... Its dimensions are 287 by 100 meters. In the center of the site, surrounded by a low fence, there is a metal cross.

In 1998, the Association "War Memorials" and the German People's Union jointly held an exhibition in Rzhev under the motto "Reconciliation over Graves". This Russian-German exhibition showed photographs of similar "combined German cemeteries" built in Russia. A ready-made plan of the German cemetery in Rzhev was also presented there. The exhibition was visited by residents of the city, both veterans and representatives of youth organizations came.

"Do we have the right to lay flowers on your graves too?" Nothing can better characterize the normalization

understanding of German-Russian relations than this question of a couple of newlyweds on the day of the consecration of the German cemetery in Rzhev on September 28, 2002 ...

One of the largest German burials was recently opened on five hectares of land in the Gagarinsky and Smolensky districts of the region, where more than 120 thousand Wehrmacht commanders and soldiers died during the war. This cemetery was opened with incredible difficulty because of the protests of local residents, in whose memory there were noticeable traces of indignation at the atrocities of the Nazis. It was in the Gagarinsky district during the years of occupation that the Nazis built eight concentration camps. In 1943, 439 civilians were burned alive in the village of Chertovo. In the former Karmanovsky district, now Gagarinsky, in the village of Leushino, German soldiers burned the entire village ...

1 mem.cell Russian news. July 25, 2007

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About one more large prefabricated German cemetery - on the Kursk Bulge. The Wehrmacht suffered huge losses here - more than 200 thousand soldiers.' In the Kursk region, near the village of Besedino, a cemetery of German soldiers was opened. Tanks of all German soldiers buried in the Oryol, Voronezh, Tula and Bryansk regions were brought here.

The Germans usually bury the remains of their fallen soldiers in cardboard boxes measuring 50x80 cm. The remains of one deceased are placed in each box. In Russia, search engines bury the remains of the dead in coffins, up to ten in one coffin. When the German soldiers were the "owners" of the occupied land, in the pictures of the war years you can see their cemeteries - birch crosses in our cities and towns, in our fields! These graves with German accuracy were transferred by them to staff maps and plans, rigidly tied to the terrain. According to the instructions, during the retreat, almost all German cemeteries were demolished by them, razed to the ground. For safety, paradoxically! On this occasion, a special order of the German command was issued. But as soon as they hear today: "Restore your cemeteries!" - and according to their maps and plans, they will immediately find them and restore them, if necessary.

How many Soviet soldiers died in the Great Patriotic War? This question has been up in the air for a long time. Many historians are said to be touched to the core. They are increasingly critical of the 1993 official data. Russia has set up a special commission to try to clarify military losses, to make final data.

According to the Ministry of Defense of Russia, one should hardly expect large discrepancies between new and previous

data?. I think that the Russian generals are very mistaken-

| Gas. Edges.gi. Thousands of German soldiers will be buried on the Kursk Bulge. 2 No one is forgotten? "News Time", No. 46, March 20, 2009

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yutsya. This is evidenced by numerous facts, primarily related to the activities of search engines. In Russia, only in the Smolensk and Tver regions annually (in recent years) the number of dead soldiers found by search engines during the war years, as well as according to archival data, will increase by 5-6 thousand! More and more often, historians give other figures for those who died in the Great Patriotic War.

The graves of Russian soldiers - there are many of them around the world

Russian (Soviet) burials - the consequences of World War II - are located in 49 states. Agreements have been signed with some of them (Germany, Austria, Hungary, Spain, Mongolia, Polyna, Romania, Slovakia, Finland, Czech Republic, Japan) on the mutual maintenance of memorials, cemeteries or mass graves in proper condition.

These agreements include the study of archival documents revealing the fate of military personnel who died on the battlefields or died in captivity, the reburial of the remains, and the care of burials in cemeteries. These countries account for 95 percent of all war graves. How is the said agreement observed? Naturally, first of all, we will talk about Germany. More than 500 thousand officers and soldiers of the Red Army are buried on German soil.

Our veterans were amazed - all the churchyards were in perfect condition. It is known that even in Hitler's time, the Germans did not touch Russian burials. Moreover, many of them buried our soldiers and even left their names on wooden crosses. We have seen these

| Gerasimova S., Rzhev 42, positional slaughter. M.: "Yauza" "Ek smo", 2007, p. 237.

2 Maxim Yaroshevsky. Russia keeps records of its military graves abroad. 05.05.2007. Pier: //m \ mind.5 of the city

n\z.gl/Agise/2007/05/04/20070504161018277.vi] 398

rye graves. The inscriptions "unknown", "soldier Goncharenko" or simply "soldier Ivan" are still preserved on them.

Memory is not measured in monetary units. But the funds allocated by the country that lost the war for the maintenance of war memorials are impressive. The German government annually spends 25 million euros on the care of war graves, of which one million is only for the maintenance of memorials in Berlin in Treptower Park, in Tiergart nei Pankow. It is easy to see that these funds are spent on purpose by visiting Germany.

In the very center of Berlin, with direct access to the Brandenburg Gate and the Reichstag building, an eight-meter sculpture of a Red Army soldier stands on a high pedestal. The hewn granite and marble of the vaulted columns of the memorial with the names of Soviet soldiers engraved on them were taken from the destroyed building of the Reich Chancellery. There are two Soviet tanks in the composition, they guard the entrance to the memorial, on the territory of which 2500 Warriors are buried...

Another Soviet monument is located in the National Park in Schönholzer Heide in the Pankow area. The bronze sculptural composition represents the Soviet people, fighting and mourning. At the end of the park is a monument to the Russian Mother Earth, mourning her sons, behind it is an obelisk with a hall of honor in the basement. The remains of 13,200 Soviet soldiers lie in the ground of this park...

And, finally, the most famous of the Soviet memorials in the capital of Germany is a bronze soldier with a lowered sword, holding a child in his arms. On the dome of the mausoleum under it, there is an inscription in mosaic: "Glory to those who died for the Soviet people!" There are also such words: "Glory and gratitude to the heroes of the Soviet Union who fell in the struggle against fascism. We accept the banner they gave us." For 65 years, the Germans have not censored these lines and brought flowers to the foot of the monument to the Russian soldier.

A huge role in the search for the dead, their worthy

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burials, maintenance of graves and cemeteries, memorials belongs to the People's Union of Germany for the care of war graves, founded in 1919, 90 years ago. Today, this public organization has about one and a half million people. Many of them on a voluntary basis, as amateur volunteers, take care of the cemetery in their free time.

The key slogan of the People's Union, translated into Russian, is: "Reconciliation over the graves of the fallen - work for the sake of peace." confirmation of the sincerity of these

words - neat, well-groomed military burials of Soviet soldiers throughout Germany. You will not find here overgrown with human-sized grass, abandoned soldiers' graves with inscriptions erased by time, cemeteries that look like a dump, and tombstones mutilated by vandals. The Germans literally understand the words "no one is forgotten and nothing is forgotten", which have long become an empty phrase for many former "Soviet" people. They take care of "their own" and "foreign" graves with the same care and lay flowers on them on the days of remembrance. The nationality of the dead does not matter here. The graves of war victims are protected in Germany by law under a special heading - "Keep forever."

National and international youth camps, whose participants take care of soldiers' graves, gather thousands of young people from Germany and other European countries every year. In total, there are 3,600 cemeteries in Germany.

Since 1996, work has been underway in Germany to create a "Book of Memory". Its first edition, published in 2002, and the second, in 2004, contain the names and fates of 60,000 Soviet officers who passed German captivity. Now the third edition is being prepared with the names of more than 900 thousand Soviet soldiers and sergeants. This will make it possible to establish up to 80% of the exact burial places of Soviet prisoners of war buried in German soil. The project is funded by the German government and the People's Union. Here is just one of the

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hot episodes of a soldier's fate, immortalized in the "Book of Memory".

The activities of the People's Union of Germany are financed by only 10% from the state budget, while the main funds come from voluntary collections and donations from citizens.

The German authorities decided to open to researchers and historians one of the world's largest archives of personal documents of 17.5 million victims of Nazism. Access to this archive in accordance with the Bonn Agreements of 1955 was closed for 60 years, but now this decision will be reviewed. The archive consists of various documents that the Nazis meticulously compiled and collected in concentration camps, as well as in places of forced labor of prisoners and deported people. This fund also contains post-war documents of the allied authorities on refugees. Until now, these documents have only been used by the International Red Cross to assist those who are looking for relatives with whom contact was cut off during the Second World War.

Since 1945 with the help of the archive? in Bad Arolsen, the Red Cross responded to more than 11 million inquiries from 62 countries. Their

sent by relatives of people who disappeared under the Nazis, and were also used to help forced laborers receive compensation.

The first publications tell about the incredible atrocities of the Nazis. One example. In the Book of Death (Tyepbiy), which was kept in the Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria, the gift of the camp commandant to Hitler on the occasion of the Fuhrer's birthday on April 20, 1942 is described with particular punctuality. Three hundred Russian prisoners were specially selected for execution in honor of the "great event". Each prisoner was subjected to the so-called Setshsk

1 "The grave will reconcile everyone." 2000. Yearbook. No. 18-19 (365). May 11-17, 2007.

2 Germany opens access to the archive of documents of 17.5 million victims of Nazism. March 12, 2007

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\$Pi5\$\$ - shot in the back of the head with a single bullet from a pistol placed at the base of the skull. In each line of the list of those executed, the name and number of the prisoner, the date and place of his birth are meticulously indicated.

One of the documents deals with the plight of Katrina, a French woman who was arrested by the Gestapo for complaining that the authorities had subjected her to forced sterilization after giving birth to a "coloured illegitimate child."

There is also the story of a 31-year-old nurse who was forced to wear a yellow "Star of David" for Jews. "This woman is half Jewish, she lived with her Aryan friend. Admits that they had a sexual relationship," the document says. The woman disappeared after she was sent to the Ravensbrück concentration camp.

In Germany, in Westphalia, there is a small town called Stuken Brok. Not far from it, on the territory of the fraternal cemetery, there is a modest monument, under which the ashes of 65 thousand Soviet prisoners of war who died in the Stalag-326 extermination camp are buried. How many towns and settlements have become known to the world as a result of such a terrible neighborhood! Auschwitz, Buchenwald, Dachau, Mauthausen, Salas Pils, Stuckenbrück...?

Among all European countries, Poland has the most graves of Soviet military personnel: almost 1.2 million graves of soldiers and officers of the Red Army, as well as prisoners of war and Soviet citizens driven away for forced labor. There are 648 military cemeteries in Poland. Soviet and Russian soldiers of two eras are buried in Bolesławiec (former town of Bunslau). In the center of the cemetery, where 718 Heroes of the Soviet Union and officers who died at the end of the war are buried, stands a monument

commander Mikhail Kutuzov. He died in this city in 1813 - during the war between Russia and Napoleon.

| pderepdepe: the SS archive reveals the horrors that the Nazis did. M5\5.sosh. 6.7.2006

2 Flowers for Stuckenbrück. Nir: //packKa.gej15.gi/25/0210/ 25210076.1:?

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New memorial cemeteries have also been created in Poland, opened at the site of the death of tens of thousands of Soviet prisoners of war in the north-east of the country, near the villages of Bogusze and Kosuvka. Work is underway to find the burial places of Russian soldiers who died in previous military conflicts, in particular, almost 700 cemeteries of the First World War, the cemetery of the Napoleonic Wars. In total, experts believe, the ashes of about 2.5 million Russian and Soviet subjects and citizens are buried in Polish soil. Near Lodz, six kilometers from the city, 4 thousand people rest in a mass grave, of which ONLY ONE is known.

Poles are staunch Catholics. IHh faith did not allow the dead to be left unburied. On the days of commemoration of the dead, they burn candles over each grave - dozens, hundreds of candles.

From Poland we will go to the north of Europe - to Norway and Finland. How the people of some countries keep the memory of the dead Russian soldiers.

In October 2004, the 60th anniversary of the liberation of East Finnmark from the Nazis was widely celebrated in Norway. As a result of fierce fighting during the Petsamo-Kirkenes operation, Soviet troops drove the Nazis out of Sør Varanger and created the conditions for the transfer of power to the legitimate Norwegian government. The rest of Norway was liberated much later: the last German soldiers surrendered to the Allies in May 1945. On October 25, the day of the liberation of Kirkenes, wreaths were laid at the monument to Soviet soldiers erected at the Vestre Grav lynn memorial cemetery in Oslo, and officials made appropriate speeches.

Historian Marianne Neerland Suleim studied and reported in her doctoral dissertation "Soviet prisoners of war in Norway in 1941-1945 – numbers, organization and repatriation", published in 2005. She established that there were 93,318 Soviet prisoners of war in Norway, distributed in concentration camps around

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the whole country. For the most part, these were captured soldiers of the Red Army, driven from other countries, but among the prisoners there were about 9 thousand civilians, including old people, women and children. As a result of hunger and slave labor, 13 thousand people died. The numbers of victims are huge, but still they are much lower than in the concentration camps on the territory of Poland. This is the great merit of the Norwegians: they brought food to the "Russian" captives, despite the prohibitions and even the threat of execution.

The dead Soviet prisoners of war, and later the soldiers and officers who fell in the battles for the liberation of Norway, were buried in churchyards, local cemeteries, near military and civilian facilities erected by the Germans, often even on uncultivated lands and in hard-to-reach mountainous areas.

In the spring of 1951, most of the graves from Kirkenes to Brennesund were transferred to one mass grave. An obelisk was erected on the island of Hietta and a park was laid out; 7551 people were buried in a mass grave, of which only 823 were identified.

In the historiography of Finland, a stable image of a country that pursued a policy independent of Nazi Germany was formed. It was believed that the Finns, unlike the Norwegians, did not extradite their Jews to the Germans and treated prisoners of war very humanely. Those eight Jews who were deported asked for political asylum in Finland and were foreigners. For this incident, Finland apologized to the Jews of the whole world and financed the construction of the kibbutz Yad HaShmo na ("Memory of the Eight") in Israel. However, in November 2003, Finnish writer, historian and journalist Elina Sana questioned the official version of events. As Sana wrote in her book "The Exiled. Deportations from Finland to the Gestapo", during the Second World War, Suomi handed over to Germany 2892 Soviet prisoners of war, among whom were 75 Jews. Most of these you

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data were shot or died in German concentration camps.

Sana noted that the Finnish government was overzealous in extraditing prisoners of war, "overfulfilling" the plans set by the Nazis. Sana's research was based on data from the Finnish and German military archives, as well as on information collected in conversations with the surviving deportees or their relatives. As it turned out, the Finns exchanged Soviet prisoners of war for representatives of the Finno-Ugric peoples captured by the Germans. In addition, Sana found out that out of 64,000 prisoners languishing in Finnish concentration camps, almost a third died; this percentage of losses is only slightly

almost falls short of the "exemplary" Nazi death camps.

Finnish authorities have allocated 2 million euros for a three-year research project led by Jussi Nuorteva, Director General of the National Archives. Nuorteva officially announced the start of the work of the commission in 2005 in Jerusalem. He noted that the analysis of several thousand documents on prisoners of war would require painstaking work and take a long time.

The official website of the National Archives contains information that the project involves not only studying the fate of prisoners of war extradited to Germany and kept in Finnish camps. The project should also clarify the fate of those who were handed over to the Soviet authorities after the war. But even after the end of work on the project, it cannot be said that the lists of all the victims of deportation will be published. In 2005, the Commission for the Protection of Information and Personal Data decided that it was impossible to publish lists of persons extradited to the Nazis due to the "sensitive nature" of these documents.

That the new historiography hurts the feelings of many Finns is an indisputable fact. However, attempts to keep

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a positive image of the country at any cost is unlikely to succeed.

Another example.

865 Soviet soldiers are buried in the Netherlands. The Soviet Field of Glory (Kyl\$15th Egeue4) is the name given to this unique burial. Although officially located on the territory of the city of Leusden (Geusen), it is generally accepted that the cemetery belongs to the city of Amersfoort, as it has been since 1947, when it was formed, until the recent change in the official boundaries of the city.

The cemetery consists of three groups of graves. From 1941 to 1945, the non-German Kamp Amersfoort (Katr Amersfoort) was located in the city of Amersfoort (Amersfoort). Of the 35,000 people who passed through this camp, 101 prisoners of war were from the Soviet Union. 24 soldiers died of starvation, torture and exhaustion, the remaining 77 were shot on April 9, 1942. Subsequently, on March 28, 1946, they were reburied with honors at the Rusthof cemetery, not far from the Amersfoort camp.

In 1947, 691 Soviet soldiers were reburied from the American Military Cemetery (village Margraten, the Netherlands) in Amersfoort. These soldiers are former prisoners of war in German camps, liberated by US troops and died in hospitals from disease and exhaustion.

Their reburial took place at the initiative of the Americans, who, after the end of the war, transferred all non-Americans to other places. In the city of Amersfoort, there was the largest burial place for Soviet soldiers in the Netherlands, which is why it became the place for the reburial of all Soviet soldiers from the cemetery in Margraten.

The third group consisted of 73 former prisoners of war who voluntarily or forcibly served in the German service or were at work. They perished and were buried in various parts of Holland, and later reburied at Amersfoort.

On November 18, 1948, the Russian Memorial Cemetery was officially opened. In 1956 the Ministry of

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The Crown of the Netherlands transferred this Memorial to the War Graves Foundation (Oopvezegauen\$ISNlpv). In 1962 the plain nameplates were replaced with limestone tombstones with engraved inscriptions.

On May 4, 1975, an obelisk was erected at the Russian Memorial Cemetery. The monument was made in the Soviet Union from white Armenian marble. It is a ten meter column with the inscription: "Glory to the Heroes. To the soldiers of the Soviet Army who died in the fight against the German invaders in the period 1941-1945. Many of those buried here are considered missing in their homeland.

In 1998, the Dutch journalist Remco Reiding received an offer from the editor-in-chief of the newspaper where he worked to try to find relatives for the soldiers buried in Leusden. What began as an investigative journalism for Remco became his moral duty. He understood that if he did not bring the matter to the end now, then this would never happen.

Remko and his wife Irina are conducting a search in two directions: identifying additional information about the buried soldiers from the archives and directly searching for the relatives of those about whom additional information is already known.

Years pass. Alas! You can't challenge time! There are fewer and fewer veterans still alive. With anxiety and pain, they recall the nightmare of wartime. It is impossible to forget him until the last hour.

The world around us is in constant motion, but the strength of the human soul remains constant. The present generation has many new rights. But he has no right to forget what those people who fought and died defending their homeland did.

VC soldier. "Soviet Field of Glory" - mind \ / zo14a +.gi / ze arcV / R p1ogu / appoanop.Vit]

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The line of the poet Robert Rozhdestvensky has been preserved:

Let's remember everyone by
name, Let's remember our
grief. It's not for the dead! It
needs to be alive!

Well said! But this is necessary not only for the living, but also for the dead!
Is not it?

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